

Summer 2013

## Letter from the Editors. "The Writer's Experience" Summer 2013; Volume 4, Issue 2

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"The Writer's Experience"  
(Summer 2013; Volume 4, Issue 2)

To our readers,

Ernest Hemingway's words on the writing process were simplistic: "There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed." The editors of the *Journal of South Texas English Studies* invite readers to enjoy the summer 2013 issue (Volume 4, Issue 2), which has undoubtedly involved blood, sweat, and possibly tears from its contributors.

As we have learned from the responses to this issue's theme, "The Writer's Experience," writing is a painstakingly brutal process of negotiation with the voices inside our heads, a process of destruction and creation, a process of continuous discovery. How is it, though, that this process is gut-wrenching for all kinds of writers - published authors, amateurs scribbling poems on restaurant napkins, and freshmen comp students - and simultaneously liberating? How can writers feel the words, the *right* words, flowing freely from their veins and onto the blank page (see "The Writer") so naturally...as if by magic? How do we come to terms with the oxymoron of "sweet pain" in the writer's experience?

The mix of articles we received are a testament to the diverse ways "the writer's experience" can be perceived: from a literary studies perspective, from personal reflections on what writing means, and from a pedagogical stance, thinking about practical approaches to the writing classroom. The articles are insightful and appropriate to growing concerns with incorporating technology and social media, communicating effective teacher feedback, and nurturing originality and creativity in the writing classroom. The latter half of the *JOSTES* summer 2013 issue reveals the inner-workings of authorship in harmony with the overall theme of writing as a *process*. Our creative submissions portray the writing process as a string of memories, one image setting off after another like fireworks (see "Buena Vida"), and provide insight into the development of a writer's identity. One remarkable author captures the struggle between writing and motherhood in her poetry; her witty verses teach us that inspiration often picks the most inconvenient moments to make an entrance.

The editors of this publication hope to reach an audience of writers in-the-making with this issue; we hope this collection on "The Writer's Experience" encourages our readers to pursue that consuming, insatiable drive to the point of madness, to challenge and revise language itself, and to love every minute of the pain.

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