



## For Immediate Release

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## Sounds of Poetry: Career Tech Writers Studio Students Complete Audio Poetry Project

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.** – Screams, heartbeats, shallow breathing and gasps for air. Wind chimes, sparkling water and the crack of broken bones – or, actually, the cracking of celery sticks, which makes a good audio substitute for bones.

When you add sound clips like those to a radio broadcast, film or podcast, you add an extra layer of detail that enriches the listener’s experience.

Students in the [Writers Studio](#) program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech had the opportunity to consider what sounds could be used and designed to enhance their written, and ultimately spoken, words as they wrapped up an audio poetry unit last week, with the help of Juliet Hinely, a Peabody and Audie Award-winning freelance story producer and sound designer based in Ypsilanti.

“This one little poetry project was able to encapsulate a lot of technical skills, a lot of conceptual development, a lot of editorial decisions, and those kinds of skills are applied to any kind of audio work,” Hinely said, mentioning audio journalists, podcasters and screenwriters as clear examples.

Writers Studio instructor Teresa Scollon said students in her program get experience writing in different styles that apply to a range of careers, from journalism to playwriting, often with help from professionals working in their respective fields.

“We strive to keep the Writers Studio relevant and connected to current industry trends so we can best prepare students to enter higher education and the workforce with in-demand skills,” Scollon said. “The audio poetry unit was a new venture this year, and it was very well received by students. I was impressed by the thought they put into not only their poetry, but the sound design and creative ways they used audio to accompany their written work.”

Hinely visited the Writers Studio a handful of times over the past school year to work with Scollon’s students in developing the audio poetry project. Students were asked to consider the imagery and subject matter described in their poems, as well as the feelings they associate with their work, to explore what sounds might complement their writings.

Hinely taught them some of the technical aspects of how to capture and edit the audio, and students set to recording their poems, read in their own voices, then layering on the heartbeats, gasps and other soundbites.

“This class is really special in that it is so creatively challenging, and I think the audio unit was a really good representation of that. It was a good creative challenge,” said Sam Fikes, a Traverse City West Senior High student in the program.

It’s likely the lesson will return to next year’s class curriculum, and there’s proof that it even opened new doors for students. Lily Kolbusz, a senior from Kingsley, said she really enjoyed the audio poetry lesson and that it has even helped her resume.

“I did have an interest in audio, and it was because of this class that I was able to land a job shadow and a job offer as an audio technician,” Kolbusz said.

Wednesday, May 18, was Hinely’s final visit to the Writers Studio, and included a listening session of the students’ finished products.

The Career Tech Writers Studio, formerly called Front Street Writers, is an intensive writing program for high school juniors and seniors who love to write. It covers several creative genres, professional writing, journalism and audio production. Students work in a collaborative and creative atmosphere to explore and develop writing skills which can be used in almost any field. Visiting authors, relevant projects and publication opportunities enhance the program. To learn more or to apply, visit [https://www.northwested.org/career\\_tech/programs/writers-studio/](https://www.northwested.org/career_tech/programs/writers-studio/)

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*North Ed Career Tech offers [21 programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration. For more information about North Ed Career Tech, [click here](#).*



**SUGGESTED CAPTION:** Students in the Writers Studio program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech discuss their audio poetry project on Wednesday, May 18. Shown, clockwise from bottom left, are Henry Trombley, Kalkaska High School; Penny Schuster, Kingsley High School; Alister Easterwood, Forest Area High School; audio producer Juliet Hinely; Writers Studio instructor Teresa Scollon; Sam Fikes, Traverse City West Senior High; Lily Kolbusz, Kingsley High School; Lily Galnares, Traverse City West Senior High; and Sara Bagley, Traverse City West Senior High. (Photo courtesy of Northwest Education Services)



**SUGGESTED CAPTION:** Instructor Teresa Scollon, right, and freelance story producer and sound designer Juliet Hinely, second from right, lead a discussion with students in the Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech Writers Studio on Wednesday, May 18. Writers Studio students – including Kingsley Area Schools student Penny Schuster, left, and Alister Easterwood of Forest Area Community Schools, second from left – completed an audio poetry project that allowed them to gain experience writing poetry and digitally applying sounds over the recording of their read-aloud work. (Photo courtesy of Northwest Education Services)



**SUGGESTED CAPTION:** Students in the Writers Studio program at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech discuss their audio poetry project on Wednesday, May 18. From left are: Sam Fikes, Traverse City West Senior High; Lily Kolbusz, Kingsley High School; Lily Galnares, Traverse City West Senior High; Ella Smith, Traverse City West Senior High; Taryn Spencer, Kalkaska High School; Sara Bagley, Traverse City West Senior High; Henry Trombley, Kalkaska High School; and Penny Schuster, Kingsley High School. (Photo courtesy of Northwest Education Services)