



Growing Invisible Voices: How To Find Hidden Writers In Your Classes (Even When The Students Don't Want To Write)

New book launched by Invisible Young Voices, Inc. helps teachers embolden hidden young writers through education, recognition, and publication

NOBLE, OK (October 15, 2017) -- Students are buried in an educational world focused on producing standardized, market-ready products whose main goal in life is to increase the bottom line of a corporation, where neighborhood schools are being shut down so profit-driven charters can take over, and where veteran teachers are leaving the embattled profession in droves. It is increasingly imperative that students are given space to be heard.

Growing Invisible Voices, a new book from the Oklahoma-based non profit Invisible Young Voices, Inc. (IYV), encourages partner teachers in middle and high schools to discover the young writers hidden in their classes, provides the tools and moral support teachers need to nurture those kids, and helps educators find opportunities to recognize and publish those writers' stories.

“Contrary to the beliefs of a certain Common Core leader, we do care what students have to say,” said Michelle Waters, founder and president of IYV. “Student writers who have grown up in this era of accountability-through-state-testing have not been encouraged to develop their talents in class or through student publications. Our mission is to help teachers reconnect with these young writers, help those students find their voices, and give student writers the space they need to be heard.”

Growing Invisible Voices describes how:

- Teachers can create a mutually caring and beneficial classroom environment that fosters safety.
- Teachers can encourage students to write about what is important to them.
- Teachers can encourage students to grow as writers and as people.
- Teachers can cultivate a reflective and recursive writing process.

Waters stresses that writing teachers must create an environment that goes beyond the traditional classroom with rows of desks, homework, worksheets, and harsh grading policies. Through stories, student testimonies, and examples, *Growing Invisible Voices* paints a picture of how Waters' successfully created an atmosphere that encouraged hidden student writers to flourish. The book offers both theory and practical solutions for classroom teachers and English curriculum directors involved in directing school or district-wide writing initiatives and programs.

Waters is an Oklahoma Writing Project Teacher Consultant and is a National Board Certified Teacher candidate with six years experience teaching in Oklahoma middle and high school classrooms. She has taught at both urban and rural schools.

About Invisible Young Voices, Inc.

Invisible Young Voices, Inc. is an Oklahoma-based non profit organization dedicating to helping teachers discover, recognize, and provide publication opportunities to hidden young writers in their classrooms. IYV provides teachers with curriculum, strategies, and tools they need to unlock student voices, including an annual Young Voices Writing Contest to showcase the student talent. IYV collaborates with educators to embolden hidden young writers, which will revitalize student lives, schools, and communities.

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