2018

TELLING ROOM: Color in Action

Ryan Poag
Meaghan Gonsior

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usm.maine.edu/thinking_matters

Part of the Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons, Broadcast and Video Studies Commons, Dramatic Literature, Criticism and Theory Commons, Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Ethnicity in Communication Commons, International and Intercultural Communication Commons, Literature in English, North America, Ethnic and Cultural Minority Commons, Nonfiction Commons, Organizational Communication Commons, Other Languages, Societies, and Cultures Commons, Public Relations and Advertising Commons, and the Secondary Education Commons

This Poster Session is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Scholarship at USM Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Thinking Matters Symposium by an authorized administrator of USM Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jessica.c.hovey@maine.edu.
Abstract

The Telling Room is a nonprofit writing center in Portland that helps young writers ages 6 to 18 build confidence, strengthen literacy skills, and provide real opportunities for students to display their creativity for audiences. Every year they approach creative writing through a unique theme to help keep young writers engaged.

Their anthology’s theme this year is **COLORS**. Colors can symbolize and illustrate various aspects of life including human emotion, energy levels, and cultural phenomena. Using the connection between color and creativity, we have embarked on a project to produce a series of six short videos based on the colors of the rainbow in partnership with Telling Room students, staff, and volunteers.

By documenting Telling Room students in their creative journeys, we will unveil the creative color stored within their written pieces and the writing process. Our goal is to have these videos ready for the Telling Room’s Big Night fundraising event in May, and to help the program and the writers unveil their collective rainbow.

Learning Outcomes

We (Ryan & Meaghan) each brought strengths to this project, stumbling into an easy partnership. Ryan with his depth of technical skills, field knowledge, and creative perspective took the lead on directing the filming and editing processes. Meaghan, with her penchant for networking and creativity, focused on developing ideas, coordinating, photography, writing, and learning new technical skills.

Working together, we are expanding our toolboxes of hard and soft skills relevant to the field of media production. Stretching and flexing, we’re building new brain muscle as we tackle each challenge, from coordinating schedules with the many Telling Room possibilities to producing time-intensive videos in a relatively short two month period.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Dennis Gilbert for guiding us in this process; as well as to Telling Room Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Raina, who has provided us with endless access, information, and inspiration. Also, to this year’s Telling Room participants, staff, and volunteers for being brilliant: keep shining.