

Featured Writer Interview with Kyle Burkett by Bethany Cox, Write Around
Portland Volunteer June 2013 Newsletter

Kyle Burkett, 21, grew up in Portland, Oregon. He loves music, writing, and playing “way too many” video games. He says he has a unique sense of humor, which is full of puns and sarcasm. “Some may even call me an evil genius,” says Kyle. “Just kidding. But am I unique? My answer to that is yes, I am.” Kyle participated in our workshop at Full Life XXXX for XXXXX.



What drew you to joining the workshop?

I wanted to get back into writing. I wrote all through high school, both creative writing and journalism. So I was missing it. I can write on my own time, but it’s physically hard to do. So when I found out that someone would help me [write during the workshop] that excited me.

What was the workshop like?

It was really fun. It’s nice to have a group of people and not always be by yourself. You can’t always judge your work. You have to share it with other people. My goal was to try and make people laugh or smile. Or maybe to get them to realize some of the stuff I go through every day.

Tell me about reading your writing at the anthology release party.

I was really nervous. My heart was going really fast. I tried my best to pronounce my words so that everybody could understand. Afterward it didn’t feel like two minutes. It felt like twenty. I was relieved that people liked my writing. My dad seemed like he was proud. He [captured] the whole thing on his phone so that was very cool.

What was it like being published in the Write Around Portland anthology, XXXXX?

Being published is such a great feeling. It was awesome. The piece that is in the book—I wrote it so people would understand. I felt like some of my friends outside of this program didn’t understand what I put up with every day. I’ve realized now that my writing helps me deal with people not understanding. I also wanted to help people in a similar situation.

What specifically did you get out of the workshop experience?

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It helped me deal with stress and to let my feelings out. Sometimes if I have a bad day, I feel like I have to write it down. It's easier to write it than to talk about it.

I'm not a super confident guy. I'm kind of shy at first. I feel like in my writing you probably wouldn't know that. It definitely helped me connect with people. I got to hear some interesting writing. It's good to not always hear your own writing but to hear others.

What was your favorite part of the workshop?

My favorite part was the writing prompts. If you give me an idea, I can take it anywhere. [In the workshop,] I felt like we were all pretty different and not the same. It made my writing branch out in different genres. Before this workshop, I would write raps or do freestyle. It was nice to actually see my thoughts appear on paper. I liked getting back into writing stories of adventure or total silliness.

Would you recommend Write Around Portland to other people?

I'd recommend they try it once. It's a very good program. I feel like the groups are very strong. You will always have support in these groups.