

Greetings!

Each year, ABE students are invited to submit writing for possible publication in *Beginnings*. Since 1998, *Beginnings* has included writing of all genres—poetry, short stories, stream of consciousness, memoirs, essays, letters, and personal histories.

Entries are evaluated in a blind review process and judged on the following criteria: content, organization/structure, creativity, and mechanics. After the selections have been made, the chosen authors are invited to the annual Ohio Writers' Conference where professional authors and storytellers provide them with guidance and inspiration on expanding and improving their writing. The day culminates in the presentation of certificates, an autograph session, and voluntary reading of submissions. The conference is an opportunity for Ohio ABE students to be applauded for their efforts and accomplishments.

*I immediately fell in love with
this blue infinite sky.
I can't see the end.
I can't see the clouds.
I just stand by under a sea of light
and breathe a never-ending breath.*

*This was the amazing welcoming
I received from Ohio
when I had just moved here from Italy—
a blue, crystalline hug over me.*

*-Clara Ravanelli
Beginnings XVIII Author*

Students of all literacy levels and abilities have been published in *Beginnings* and honored at the conferences. *Beginnings* is not solely for students in advanced levels. If you or your students need suggestions on the writing process, which genre to try, or what to write about, a number of publications on writing can be accessed at <http://literacy.kent.edu/beginnings>. Additional information about *Beginnings XIX* and the Ohio Writers' Conference is also available. The 19th annual Ohio Writers' Conference will be held on May 6, 2016, in Columbus, Ohio. Author Mary Biddinger is the keynote speaker for this year's event. The deadline for submissions is February 12, 2016.

