Each year, ABLE 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 ABLE students to be applauded for their efforts and accomplishments.

“...I feel blessed because I’m a beginner in English. I’m seeing that cultures are different And all of us are equal as beings. Yes, I’m still a beginner, but I have no fear...”
Ana A. Gay
Beginnings XVII Author

“I don’t remember my childhood, but that’s not to say it wasn’t important. In fact, it is just the opposite. Much of who I am today comes from those young and tender ages when I was still a stranger to this world. I can’t help but thank those people who cared enough to show a lost and confused boy how to become a strong and capable man.”
Claude A. Banks
Beginnings XVII 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 XVIII and the Ohio Writers’ Conference is also available. The 18th annual Ohio Writers’ Conference will be held on May 8, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio. Author David Giffels is the keynote speaker for this year’s event. The deadline for submissions is February 13, 2015.