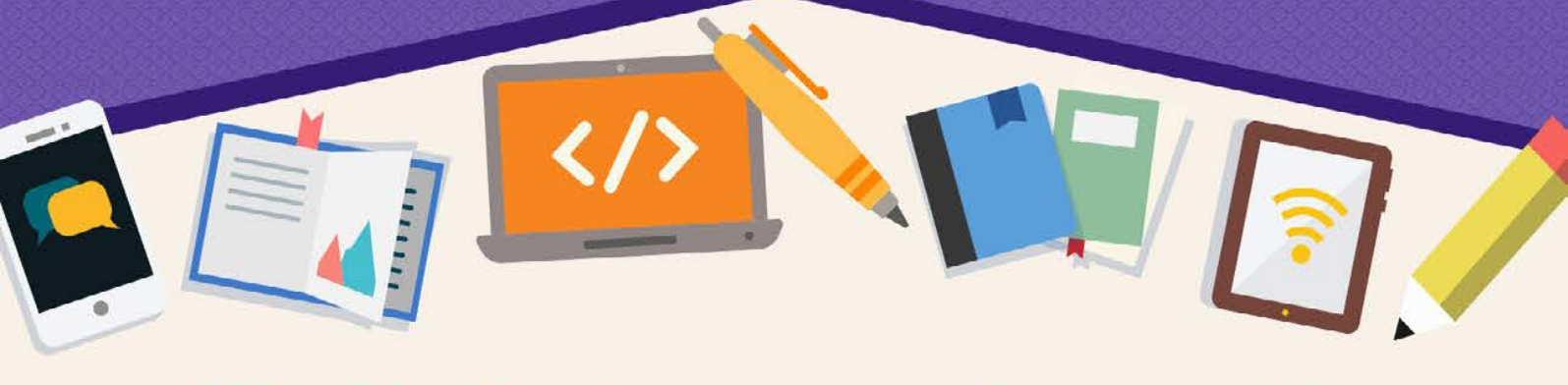


Meet the 21st Century Writer



What traits do young writers need to succeed in an increasingly connected world?

Explore the qualities that help today's writers thrive.

A 21st century writer is...

Social

Today's writer shares ideas, updates, and information with others. She promotes her own work but also points out others' great work.

Inquisitive

Today's writer has a curious mind. He asks many questions, listens intently, and takes notes of what he sees and hears.

Compassionate

Today's writer is respectful of different ideas and perspectives. Her writing unifies rather than divides.

Connected

Today's writer uses technology to reach vast audiences. He's familiar with the latest apps and tech trends and is a big fan of free WIFI.

Concise

Today's writer packs a punch in just a few words. Her readers are busy, so she gets her point across quickly and clearly. She relies on strong action verbs and specific nouns.

Reflective

Today's writer explores personal thoughts and feelings on the things he's seen and learned. He can record his reflections privately in journals or publicly on blogs.

Distinct

Today's writer uses a voice reflective of her personality. Her voice strengthens each time she writes.

Analytical

Today's writer thinks critically about the issues impacting the world. His writing addresses causes and effects, analyzes complex problems, and evaluates potential solutions.

Creative

Today's writer uses language and technology in surprising ways. She creates short stories out of emoticons. She describes her summer vacation in a series of haikus.

Accurate

Today's writer is careful about the information he includes in his work. He evaluates and fact checks sources for truth and bias.

Did You Know?

Facts About Teenage Writers In the 21st Century

Teens value writing.

86% of teens believe good writing is important to success in life

83% of parents of teens feel there is a greater need to write well today than there was 20 years ago

93% of those ages 12-17 say they have done some writing outside of school in the past year, and more than a third of them write consistently and regularly

According to a Pew Research survey, teens say they are motivated to write when they can select topics that are relevant to their lives and interests.

Teens write actively online.

92% of teens go online daily

24% of teens admit to going online "almost constantly"

71% of teens use more than one social network site

88% of teens ages 13-17 own a cell phone; 90% of those use them to text

14% of online teens say they blog

Teens grapple with the distinction between academic and electronic communication.

85% of teens ages 12-17 engage at least occasionally in some form of electronic personal communication

60% of teens do not think of electronic texts as writing

50% of teens say they sometimes use informal writing styles instead of proper capitalization and punctuation in their school assignments



Teens' future employers value writing.

Writing is a "threshold skill" for hiring and promotion.

The "ability to create and/or edit written reports" was one of the 10 most sought-after qualities of employers in 2015.

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