

# National Theatre, National Politics Creative Challenge: Celebrate Your DC Story

<https://thenationaldcpolitics.org>



## Activity Overview

**Grade Level:** High School (9th – 12th)  
**Subjects:** ELA/Literacy, Creative Writing  
**Estimated Time:** 20 - 30 min

**Materials Needed:** Pen or pencil, paper, computer or tablet  
**Activity Format:** Individual

**Summary:** This learning activity will encourage students to examine their political views as they relate to storytelling and will allow them to express themselves through creative writing and videography.

## Activity Guide

- After reviewing the *National Theatre, National Politics* website, encourage students to look at their community/family/school with fresh eyes. Perhaps the politics of today will bring up thoughts about students' own citizenship. Remind them that their unique voice matters and has political significance. Ask them to think about their own personal experiences as a part of the District of Columbia community. What political/historical events have they lived through? How has the landscape of Washington, DC impacted their life experiences?
- Students will write a short story that consists of 250-350 words. This story should highlight the love, challenges, growth, and ups and downs that take place in students' communities/neighborhoods. Encourage students to use this as a time to reflect, reset, advocate, or bounce back as they allow the "pen to paper" experience to guide them in describing the story they want to share.
- Next, students will collect images to create a slideshow that exemplifies aspects of their stories. Images may include words, symbols, or students' own photography.
- Finally, students will record a voiceover to accompany their slideshows that is no more than one minute long. The voiceover should summarize the most important parts of their stories and demonstrate what the Capital City looks and feels like to them as individuals.
- The slideshows and voiceovers can be presented to the entire class.