

Sample Scope of Work
First Verse Journalism and Poetry Contest
August 2, 2018
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Project Goal & Background:

The motivation for this project is partly derived from an essay and lesson plan I have written for a book published by the McSweeney group titled, “The Open Door”. Based on Gwendolyn Brooks’ concept of language of paradox, the goal is to use the essay and lesson plan as a resource for the use of this concept in writing. There are two major goals for this project, the First Verse journalism and poetry contest and the curation of educational resources.

First Verse Poetry and Journalism Contest:

First Verse is an annual, nationwide journalism and poetry contest sponsored by Fourth Estate. The contest is open to high school and college students. Out of the 100 plus entries expected, there will only be three winners chosen from [#?] categories. Thus far, I’ve assisted in choosing the judges, establishing a timeline for the contest and connecting with potential partners. If not a conflict of interest, I would also serve as a judge.

Education:

Furthermore, the development of an educational component that would feature the lesson plan has been discussed, I have offered to assist as needed in this process.

Other Potential Works:

The potential for anthologizing and/or publishing the work has also been discussed but requires further consideration. If this occurs I would edit or co-edit the work(s).

My Relationship with Ms. Gwendolyn Brooks:

I am her last protégé and one of few scholars of her concept of language of paradox. I served as the artistic director of Our Ms. Brooks 100, the 2017 centennial celebration of her life and work. I also served as director of the Gwendolyn Brooks Center of Black Literature and Creative writing at Chicago State University for nine years. Additionally, I’ve co-edited two anthologies celebrating her impact and influence, and guest edited Poetry Magazine for an issue devoted to her.

Timeline:

Announcement of contest- August 28,2018

Deadline for submissions- February 28, 2019

Winners Announced- late March/ early April 2019

Compensation:

I am asking for a compensation of \$10,000.00 for the work stated above. This includes my assistance with the curation of the educational components of this project. The compensation is negotiable.