Workshop Title: Idealism, Normalcy & Wants Through Imagery

Level: **Novice Writers**, Developing Writers, Experienced Writers

Duration: **1.5 hrs**

(**15 mins**) **Check in:** What is something you deeply desire at this moment? It can be as simple as pizza or as complex as a friendship. What is stopping you from getting this?

(**15 mins**) **Resource Building**:
- Create lists answering the following questions:
    - What does it mean to want?
    - What's the difference between a want and a need?
    - What are 10 needs you have?
    - What are 10 wants you have?
- Begin a quick write answering:
    - How does idealism play a part in your wants vs needs?
        - Idealism is a set of unrealistic standards or goals that often cannot be achieved.
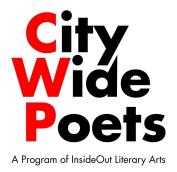
(**20 mins**) **Example poem:**

- Jamila Woods - Blk Girl Art
    https://www.npr.org/2017/12/27/572301894/watch-jamila-woods-perform-spoken-word-poem-blk-girl-art

- Danez Smith - Dinosaurs In The Hood
    https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/poems/57585/dinosaurs-in-the-hood

- Discussion:
    - What do you think the writers in each poem want?
    - How do these poems differ? How are they similar?

- Which images are unrealistic? Do they still work?

(20 mins) Prompt:

Respond to the statement: "Everyone can achieve their perfect life - the only thing holding you back is you." Encourage students to use Imagery. Imagery can be defined as writing visual content through the use of concrete descriptions. Strong imagery makes the reader feel like they can use the 5 senses to interact with items in your writing.

OR

Create an Erasure Poem combining both Danez Smith and Jamila Woods poem. In an erasure, the writer takes previously written work from another writer and "erases" certain lines or phrases. The remaining lines or phrases should create a new piece of writing with a new meaning.

Online Sharing Options
- (10 mins) allow 2 - 3 students to share their work

- (10 mins) create share-groups of 3 or 4 students. Students should share work among themselves privately (email, google drive, text, etc.)

- (10 mins) allow all students to share 1 - 3 lines from their writing. Speed is key!