



Joaquín Zihuatanejo

Joaquín Zihuatanejo is an author, poet, spoken word artist, and award-winning teacher. Born and raised in the barrio of East Dallas, Joaquín expertly captures the duality of the Chicano culture.

He's captivated thousands with his honest depiction of barrio life.

He's authored a number of books including the critically acclaimed "Arsonist". Joaquin is highly sought educator for his writing workshops, especially college and scholarship essay sessions.

"We breathe inspiration, like living poems, into our students."



BOOK THIS SERIES



What's Your Problem Essay?

What's Your Problem Essay, is an interactive workshop series designed to introduce students to what it is to be the kind of scholar that scholarship selection boards tend to reward with scholarships with a special emphasis on the scholarship essay or personal statement that often accompanies the scholarship application packet.

Sessions can be virtual or face-to-face and customized for students, parents and/or teachers.

The goal of the workshop series is to have students walk away with insights, advice, resources and inspirations to help them along the process of their scholarship search. Yes, students will walk inspired to write more deeply when it comes to the personal narrative, but they will also walk away with insights into what it is to be the strongest academic scholar they can be.

SERIES OBJECTIVES:

- *Students will walk away with the skills necessary for writing a successful, well written personal essay, personal narrative, or personal statement related to the scholarship process*
- *Students will improve their knowledge of what it is to be the kind of student that scholarship selection committees tend to award*
- *Students will walk away with resources, practical applications, and tools necessary to begin, continue, or enhance their scholarship search*
- *Students will enhance their skills as deep writers who write with great passion, precision, and personal perspective learning the skills that make their writing more urgent and overall more effective*

SERIES SESSION OUTLINE

Duration of all Sessions: 45-90 min

Session descriptions available upon request

Session 1: From Barrio Boy to MFA to World Champion: A Scholarship Story **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Keynote Presentation
- Duration: 45-60

Session 2: 23 In Less Than 23 **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Learn the power of brainstorming and an effective brainstorming technique
 - Create 23 possible themes for scholarship essays or personal statements
 - Craft the opening paragraph of a scholarship essay

Session 3: A Walk in the Woods **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Use their imaginations to visualize stunning and vivid scenes
 - Write deeply with an emphasis on imagery
 - Learn the meaning of imagery and craft writing samples that are steeped in imagery

Session 4: The Costco Essay, How One Essay Got One Latinx Into Stanford **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Students will read and interpret the essay form and learn and discuss the components that make a successful essay
 - Students will be inspired by seeing an example of scholarship essay writing by someone of their own age
 - Students will share their thoughts and insights with each other discussing writing techniques in terms of their overall effectiveness

Session 5: Facing Your Fears **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Identify and write about the fears they have concerning college
 - Students will learn techniques and insights to help them address and overcome their fears concerning college
 - Students will be reflective and consider the common fears of parents concerning sending their children to college and how to communicate openly with them

Session 6: What's Your Problem Essay? An Overview of a Well Written Essay **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Learn about the power of the well-constructed first sentence and introductory paragraph
 - Learn the definition of sentence variation and its impact on effective writing
 - Learn the significance of proofreading and practice the art of peer editing

Session 7: The Beautiful (and Maddening) Grind of Schoolwork **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Discuss the significance of reading and its impact and influence on successful scholars
 - Work together to discuss and define effective goal setting techniques and traits
 - Work together to discuss and define effective time management techniques and traits



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Session 8: The Well-Rounded Student **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will...**
 - Identify and discuss what it is to be an active and engaged citizen of their campus
 - Identify and discuss what it is to be an active and engaged citizen of their community
 - Discuss, write about, and learn techniques to help them on their ACT, SAT, AP, exams and also discuss how to ask for and thank people for letters of recommendations

Session 9: My Neighbor Paul **Virtual** **Face-to-Face**

- Learning Objectives: **Students will..**
 - Listen and be inspired by the thrilling tale of one man's journey from poverty to wealth through hard work and scholarship
 - View data concerning the dollar value of varying degrees
 - Write and reflect on what is necessary for them to complete their academic journey



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