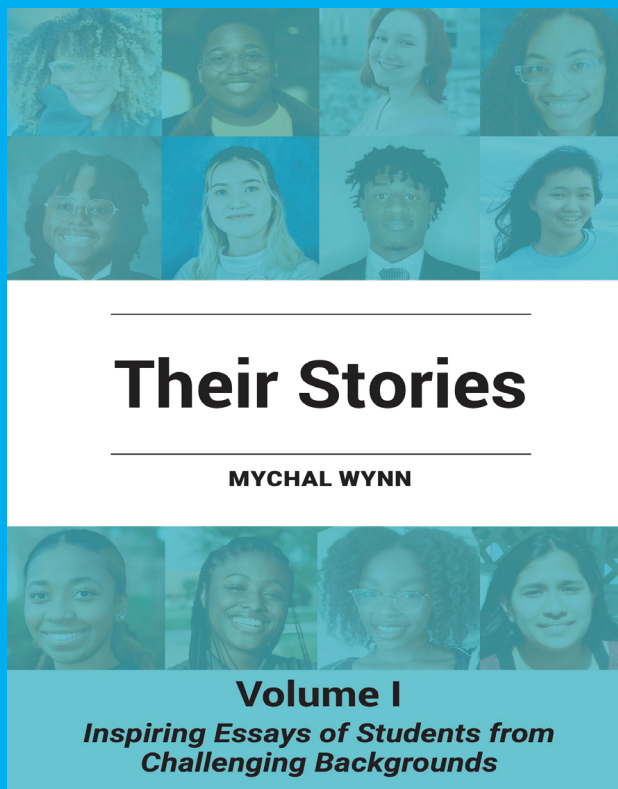


Their Stories: Vol I

Inspiring Essays of Students from Challenging Backgrounds



ISBN: 978-1880463-99-4
5.25 x 7.5, 224 pgs • \$19.95



P.O. Box 70906
Marietta, GA 30007
info@rspanishing.com • www.rspanishing.com
Ph: 770.518.0369 | fax: 770.587.0862

From the Author

In our work with students from marginalized communities and the most challenging backgrounds, we meet so many amazing students who don't know what they don't know. Despite their dreams for the future, and the day to day grit demonstrated in their schools and communities, there continues to be a huge college knowledge gap. For most of our students, we believe that the Common Application essay prompt that allows students to tell their stories is the essay that best contextualizes their application and provides a lens through which college admissions officers can see how amazing these students are.

"Their Stories" also provides unique insight into another far too misunderstood and too little discussed topic—student loan debt. Of the 27 students profiled, all but one is attending college on a full scholarship, and of the two who aren't, one student was offered a full scholarship, but declined the scholarship and accepted student loans to attend a different college.

Some students are not only the first in their family to attend college, they are the first in their family to graduate from high school. They are courageous. Many students left small rural communities and low-performing high schools to attend college at some of the most socially elite and academically challenging institutions in America.

These students are only the beginning. Future volumes of "Their Stories" will profile students from a broad range of sociocultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. However, I felt that Volume I should reflect these stories, these students, and these amazing outcomes!

— Mychal Wynn
Author
CEO/Founder
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