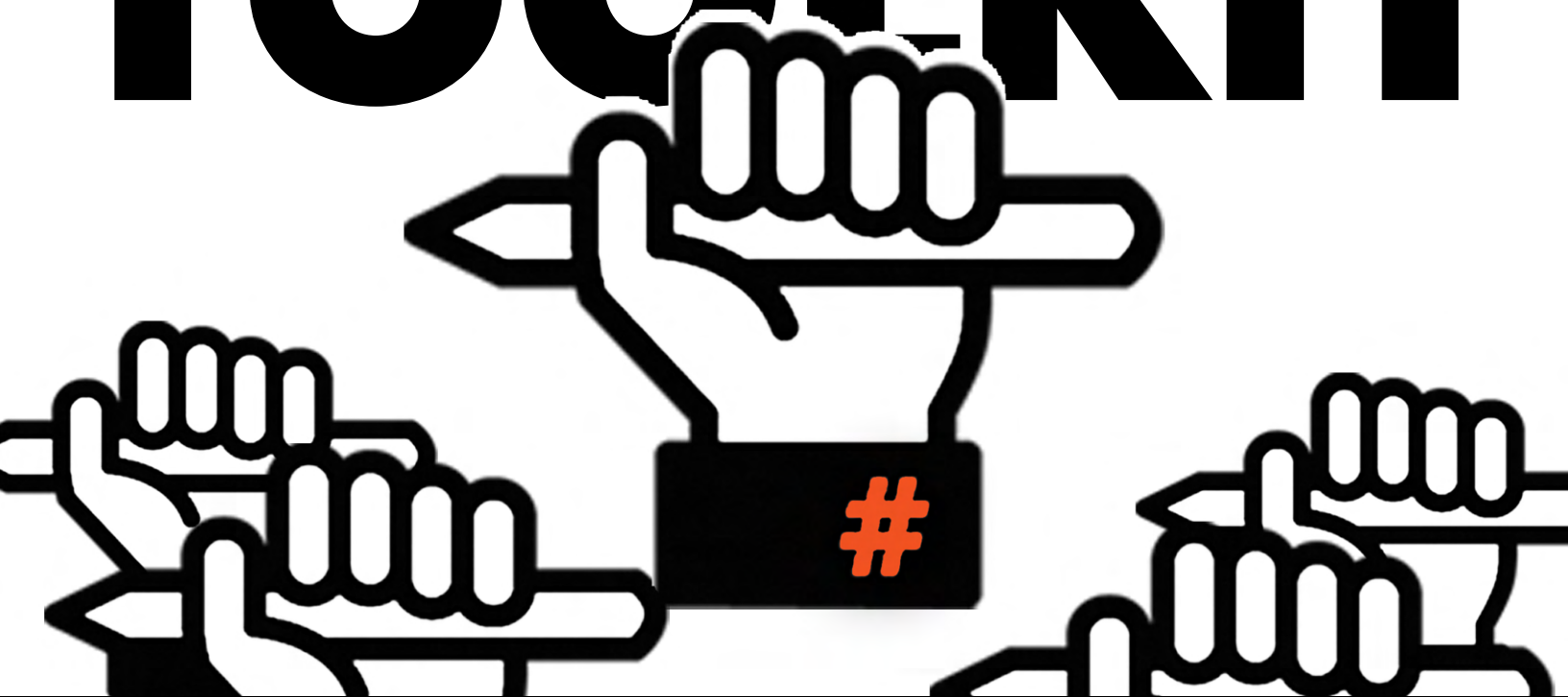


#ENOUGH

PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

GETTING STARTED TOOLKIT



ENOUGHPLAYS.COM

CHANGE THE REF

DRAMATISTS GUILD



Playscripts

DEAR WRITER

We're asking you to write a play around **10 minutes long** that confronts the issue of gun violence. Ten minutes probably doesn't feel like enough time at all to confront such a huge issue. But on **October 1, 2017**, ten minutes was long enough for a gunman to kill **60** people and wound **411** others in **Las Vegas**. And on **December 14, 2012**, half that amount of time was long enough for a gunman to kill **20** children and **6** adults at **Sandy Hook**.

*If so many lives can be stolen in ten minutes or less, then we must believe that **ten minutes of a moving story** is also enough for hearts and minds to change.*

"America's gun violence isn't about statistics, but about people," wrote **playwright Lauren Gunderson** in her preface to last year's anthology of **#ENOUGH** plays. "Lives, families, dreams and hopes cut short brutally, unnecessarily, preventably. Gun violence is about voices silenced."

Why theatre? Because in the theatre another person's story unfolds directly in front of us. That immediacy can generate both empathy and understanding. This is the ultimate super power of the theatre. With your plays we will spark critical conversations and inspire meaningful action in your community and others all across the country. You can become consequential activists through the art you create.

Your generation has proven itself to be the ones that champions **empathy, justice, and equity** - everything the theatre celebrates. Your voice and perspective should be heard, both on and offstage. And that includes the stories only you can tell. As Lauren puts it, your play will be "speaking, dreaming, creating for so many who can't." Because if numbers and statistics were enough, we wouldn't have to say, "ENOUGH."

Raise your voice. We look forward to hearing what **you** have to say.

Michael Cotey, #ENOUGH Artistic Producer

Orlando Repertory Theatre Orlando, FL

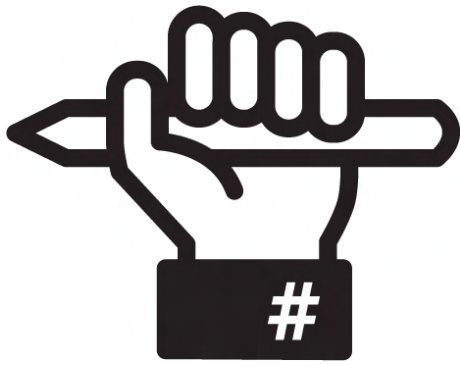


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Written and Designed By:
Michael Cotey

Additional Material By:
Kelsea Vierra Ashenbrenner

Special Thanks:
Jonathan Shmidt Chapman
Hallie Gordon
Karen Multer
Christian Potterton
Alvaro Saar Rios
Michael Rohd
Laney Rosenblatt
Willa Taylor
Jennifer Vosters
John Weidman

Campaign Sponsors:



DRAMATISTS GUILD



Playscripts

ABOUT #ENOUGH	3
21/22 TIMELINE	4
GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PLAY	5
DIMENSIONS OF GUN VIOLENCE	8
WHO DOES GUN VIOLENCE AFFECT?	9
OUR WRITING CHALLENGE	10
ON WRITING THE 10-MINUTE PLAY	11
ADVICE FROM LAST YEAR'S PLAYWRIGHTS	12
WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET STUCK	13
WRITING PROMPTS	14
ROADMAP TO WRITING YOUR PLAY	15
NEXT STEPS	19
FURTHER READING	20
#ENOUGH POSTER	25



A NOTE TO EDUCATORS A companion Educator's Toolkit is available online at enoughplays.com/resources. The pictogram to the left will indicate a corresponding lesson plan or additional resource geared towards the classroom.



#ENOUGH

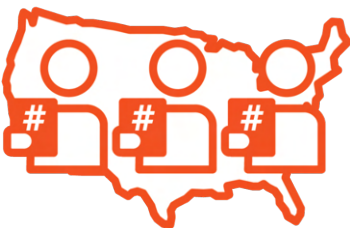
PLAYS TO END GUN VIOLENCE

#ENOUGH empowers teens to confront gun violence by creating new works of theatre that will ignite critical conversations and inspire meaningful action, emboldening America's playwrights of *tomorrow* to discover and develop their voices *today*.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS // Sept 1 - Nov 1, 2021

We call on writers from across the country in grades 6-12 to **write and submit 10-minute plays that confront the issue of gun violence**. Select playwrights receive a \$500 stipend, have their plays published by Playscripts, are given memberships to The Dramatists Guild, and will be featured in our Nationwide Reading.



NATIONWIDE READING // April 20, 2022

We're inviting theatres, schools, colleges, and other organizations to **produce staged readings** of this year's plays for their community. Performed simultaneously across the country on the same night, these readings will be part of an evening of reflection, dialogue and action.

www.enoughplays.com



@enoughplays



@enoughplaysproject

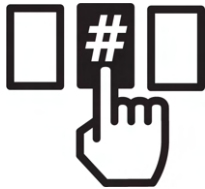
21/22 TIMELINE

Phase 1: Call for Submissions

www.enoughplays.com/writing



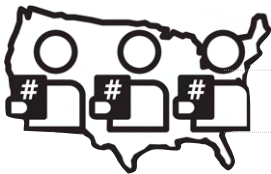
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| September 1, 2021 | Call for Submissions open. |
| November 1, 2021 | Call for Submissions closes at 11:59PM PST
View next page for submission details. |



- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| November 22, 2021 | 20 Finalists selected. |
| Nov - Dec, 2021 | 20 Finalists read by the Selection Committee. |
| January 3, 2022 | 6-8 scripts are selected as this year's plays and the playwrights are notified. |

Phase 2: Nationwide Reading

www.enoughplays.com/reading



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| October 1, 2021 | Early commit date for producing a reading.
<i>4-year remembrance of Las Vegas.</i> |
| Jan - Feb, 2022 | Selected plays receive workshops, sponsored by The Dramatists Guild. |
| January 31, 2022 | Scripts sent to Reading producers. |
| Mid-February, 2022 | Discussion / Facilitation Guide sent to Reading producers. |
| April 1, 2022 | Final day to join Nationwide Reading. |
| April 20, 2022 | Nationwide Reading.
<i>23-year remembrance of Columbine.</i> |



GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PLAY

AHA! Santa Barbara, CA

Eligibility

- Only plays written by writers in grades 6-12 during the 2021-2022 school year will be accepted.
- Submissions must be previously unpublished. Past winners of #ENOUGH are not eligible.

Deadline & Submission Details

- All scripts must be submitted via the website portal: www.enoughplays.com/submit
- Writers may submit work for consideration until **11:59 PM PST on November 1, 2021**.
- Submissions will receive acknowledgment via email when received and be updated with the status of their submissions.
- Writers may submit only one play for consideration.
- Scripts must be in either PDF or Word format. Please name the file using the title of your play (i.e. YOUR_PLAY.pdf)
- If a writer is in need of any alternate means of submitting their plays, please contact us: enoughplays@gmail.com.

Rewards for Selected Playwrights

- \$500 stipend, sponsored by Change the Ref.
- Plays published by Playscripts in an #ENOUGH anthology.
- Plays produced as part of the Nationwide Reading on April 20, 2022.
- Memberships to The Dramatists Guild.
- Copy of the script writing software Final Draft, courtesy of The Dramatists Guild.
- Written feedback by the Selection Committee.
- An opportunity to have their play workshopped over a virtual platform in Jan/Feb, in collaboration with professional theatre artists, courtesy of The Dramatists Guild.

- MORE -

Guidelines

- Plays must address the issue of gun violence.
- Completed scripts must be no longer than 10 minutes when read aloud. *[A good rule of thumb: 1 page of dialogue between 2+ characters = 1 minute of stage time]*
- Scripts may have a cast size up to, but no more than, six (6) actors.
- Plays must be the original work of a single writer. Collaborative works or adaptations won't be considered, nor will plays that include music, lyrics, or dialogue written by anyone other than the submitting writer.

Formatting

- 12-point type is preferred. Times New Roman is suggested.
- Number all your pages.
- The **cover page** of each submission should include:
 - the title of the play,
 - your name and email address (this is the only place your name should appear),
 - and your school name.
- Follow the cover page with a **character / setting page** which should include:
 - the title of the play,
 - all the characters in the play and any description you have for them,
 - the location (s) in which the play takes place.
- And then follow the *character / setting page* with the rest of your **script**.

For more helpful formatting guidance: [AATE - Young Playwrights for Change - Style Guide](#).

Selection of Plays

- A team of theatre professionals will read all the submissions in the first round and determine twenty (20) Finalists.
- The Selection Committee will read the 20 Finalists and select six (6) to eight (8) plays as our Final Selected Plays. Selected Playwrights will be announced and notified Dec 21/Jan 22.

Feedback Due to the volume of submissions we expect to receive, only the Finalists and Selected Playwrights are guaranteed to receive feedback on their work.

- MORE -

Rights All work is protected by copyright the moment it's created. All Writers own their plays and have exclusive control of the rights to produce, publish, and adapt them. By submitting work to #ENOUGH, the playwright is giving #ENOUGH permission to produce or excerpt the student's play now or in the future. #ENOUGH and its partners may also (at its discretion) publish your script (or portions of it) in print or online and submit it to a publisher for their publication consideration. All other rights remain the exclusive property of the writer.

Note #ENOUGH reserves the right to change any contest rules, the right to accept and reject any play submitted to the contest for any reason, the right to request changes and revisions from submitted scripts, and may post the names of the chosen playwrights on marketing and press materials. Writers agree to allow #ENOUGH to document, through all methods of media, all stages of the process (photos and recording) for education, publicity, or other uses. For most up-to-date submissions guidelines, visit: enoughplays.com/writing.

Submission Deadline Reminder:

November 1, 2021, 11:59PM PST

www.enoughplays.com/submit

**"Speak and
write the truth
and you will
win all battles."**



Manuel Oliver, #ENOUGH Selection Committee
Father of Joaquin "Guac" Oliver who was murdered at Parkland

A collage of 15 portraits of diverse young people, framed by a red geometric pattern. The portraits show individuals of various ethnicities and ages, some wearing masks or headphones, representing the youth of the United States.

Our goal is to choose 6-8 plays that each provide a unique look into one of the many dimensions of gun violence. Your play may view gun violence through the lens of **race, history, economic inequality, intentional vs. unintentional shootings, or geography**. In whatever play you choose to write, the same thing is at the center of both any great story AND any dimension of gun violence: **people**. People as real as you are, with full lives that can be changed in an instant by gun violence.

#ENOUGH | www.enoughplays.com

WHO DOES GUN VIOLENCE AFFECT?

OVERALL	100 Every day, more than 100 Americans are killed with guns and twice as many are shot and wounded.	38,000 Every year, nearly 38,000 Americans are killed with guns. More than one-third of gun deaths are homicides.	3,000 3,000 children and teens are shot and killed every year and another 13,000 are shot and wounded.
BLACK AMERICANS	14x Nationwide, a Black man is fourteen times more likely than a white man to be shot to death.	3x Black people in America are nearly 3x as likely to be shot and killed by the police than white Americans.	16x Black males are 16x more likely than white males to be shot and injured in assaults involving guns.
WOMEN	21x Women in the U.S. are 21x more likely to be killed by guns than women in other high-income countries.	2x Black women are 2x as likely to be fatally shot by an intimate partner compared to white women.	57 Every month, an average of 57 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner.
CHILDREN & TEENS	3M Approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year.	100+ Over 100 children and teens die by unintentional gunshot every year.	14x Black children and teens are 14x more likely than white children and teens of the same age to die by gun homicide.
GUN SUICIDE	3x Access to a gun increases the risk of death by suicide by 3x.	10x The U.S. gun suicide rate is 10x higher than that of other high-income countries	80% Over 80% of child firearm suicides involved a gun belonging to a family member.
LGBTQ AMERICANS	19% Anti-LGBTQ bias motivated 19% of reported hate crimes in 2019.	3/4 3 out of 4 homicides of trans people are with a gun.	SOURCE: Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund



Goodman Theatre Chicago, IL

"Theatre is a metaphorical space, and most of it resides inside the imagination of the most important participant in it: *the audience*. You do not need a literal gun to create the idea of a gun in the audience's mind; you do not need to show someone being shot in order to create that impression. Let the audience do the work it came here to do: namely, to use their imagination." - **Don Zolidis, #ENOUGH Selection Committee**

What if... you wrote a play about gun violence without showing a gun and without showing any violence? What kind of play could **YOU write?**

Take last year's **Ghost Gun** by Olivia Ridley for example (pictured above). Olivia's play is about gun violence through the lens of race that examines the double standard of how the deaths of Black men due to gun violence are talked about (or not talked about) in comparison to their white counterparts. In it, the main character of Black Boy holds our attention by claiming he has a gun. Carrying a gun has been the only way a young Black man like himself can ever feel any power or earn anything close to respect. His monologue is a searing indictment of our society's indifference to Black and brown bodies dropping dead in the street. At the end of the monologue, Black Boy reveals that his "gun" was fake all along.

Use Olivia's play as inspiration and go past the violence and even the gun itself. A story about gun violence is a story about the people it impacts. That impact has lasting effects on a community long after a gun was ever fired. Embracing this challenge will encourage you to write more thought-provoking and nuanced plays, and avoid staging anything that may be insensitive or re-traumatizing for the survivor community.

Write the story you want to tell. Just know that exploring the impact of gun violence does not mean you need to depict it. **For more examples, you can watch last year's #ENOUGH plays for free on *Broadway on Demand*.**

PLAYWRIGHT & #ENOUGH ADVISOR

LAUREN GUNDERSON



ON WRITING THE 10-MINUTE PLAY

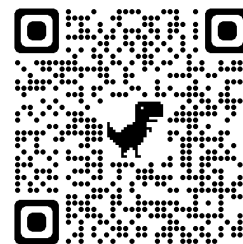
On **Lauren's Facebook page** you can find a whole curriculum's worth of playwriting lessons. Here are some insights from them!

- Ask yourself 4 questions: *Who is your main character? What do they want? Do they get it? At what cost?*
- *The Beginning*: Why this and why now? What makes it urgent? *The Middle*: Raise the stakes. *The End*: The point of the play and what it's all about.
- You have a single page to set up the world of the play. Immediately have some form of conflict.
- You have to know going in what your main event or turning point will be. You're preparing for it from pg. 1.
- After writing the first draft, put it down. Take a breath. Ask yourself if the places you're taking a character are in line with the end result.
- Generally you'll reach your climax at the bottom of page 7 / top of page 8 in order to still have room for a final outcome - unless it's ending with a cliffhanger!

WATCH!



TIPS FOR TEEN
PLAYWRIGHTS



ON WRITING
10-MIN PLAYS



ABOVE L TO R: Adelaide Fisher, Eislinn Gracen, Azya Lyons, Debkanya Mitra, Olivia Ridley, Sarah Schecter, and Elizabeth Shannon.

Adelaide Fisher (*MS. MARTIN'S MALAISE*) "The same story can be told a lot of different ways. Try looking at your work from different perspectives or in different settings and you might find something entirely new and creative, even in a story you feel like you've heard a hundred times before."

Eislinn Gracen (*GUNS IN DRAGONLAND*) "You don't necessarily have to "write what you know". Write what interests you. You can always learn."

Azya Lyons (*TOGETHA*) "Be creative, not profound. Write something creative that's thought provoking. Only then can you go back and revise with an idea of what you mean and what you want your audience to feel."

Debkanya Mitra (*MALCOLM*) "If you are writing a play, you will have to take risks and be bold. Not everyone will like your writing or agree with your message, but it's important to believe in your work regardless."

Olivia Ridley (*GHOST GUN*) "Any story told about gun violence should be handled with thought and care. Gun violence is an extraordinarily complex and nuanced issue, a quality that should be reflected in your writing. Gun violence is also a multi-faceted issue; it's typically intermingled with race/class issues, lgbtq+ rights, etc. There are so many ways to discuss and present this very important issue! Don't limit yourself to what you *think* a story about gun violence should look like."

Sarah Schecter (*HULLABALOO*) "You already have everything you need to write an amazing play within yourself. Don't underestimate your experiences, ideas, opinions, and knowledge! If you think of something that makes you excited to write about, trust it! Lean into it! Get started now!"

Elizabeth Shannon (*LOADED LANGUAGE*) "Ask yourself "what's the point?" of what you're writing. What do you want the audience to think as the lights come up after the final scene? Also, don't worry about how "good" your first draft is. It's better to write a rough first draft and have something concrete to edit than to wait until you are magically able to write something perfect on the first try."

WHAT TO DO IF YOU GET STUCK

Idris Goodwin "You're getting stuck because you're thinking too much. Make a choice. Or rather ask the character to make a choice and then see what the impact will be. You want your play to be active. You want your characters to be in pursuit or resistance of something. What do those impulses make them do? What are the reactions to their actions? But it begins with you. If you are stuck then the story is stuck and that's not how life goes. It goes with or without you or your characters. Inaction IS an action but meanwhile the sun rises and shines, the mail is delivered, the milk goes bad – and the writer must write. Make a choice. You can change it later."

Don Zolidis "Getting stuck is usually a result of having unrealistic expectations of your work. You are stopping yourself because you're afraid of failure, or you realize that the work you're producing is not immediate genius. But getting good at something requires failure – it's only through failure that you learn. So in order to write that great play, you have to write a lot of garbage first. Don't be afraid of garbage."

Rajiv Joseph "I take a walk, a shower, listen to music. I also like to look at visual works of art. Sometimes I look at a picture and wonder: "If this were the poster for my play, why would it be?" It gets me thinking about my work symbolically rather than literally, which is helpful."

BELOW L TO R: Idris Goodwin (*#ENOUGH* Advisor), Don Zolidis and Rajiv Joseph (*Selection Committee*).



#ENOUGH WRITING PROMPTS

Having trouble getting started? Relax. Everybody does. Think of the prompts below as kindling to start the fire of your writing. Your final submission does not have to adhere to any of these prompts. **What you write should follow where your inspiration and passion leads you.**

1



SAYING "ENOUGH"

What can *one person* do when they have had enough? What can a *community* do when it has had enough?

Imagine a character or community that has had enough and does something about it - what do they do? Write your ten minute play about what they do, why and how.

2



IN THE AFTERMATH

Imagine three people affected differently by the same fictional moment of gun violence. Imagine them as characters occupying the same space together.

3



BEHIND EVERY STATISTIC IS A STORY

Choose a statistic about gun violence that surprised (or even infuriated) you and write a play that attempts to theatricalize it. How can you use *metaphor* and *image* to show this statistic in a new dimension on stage? Use your play as a way to help others fully understand a specific statistic about gun violence

"If you're not sure where to start, **think of a place**: a park, an aquarium, a video arcade. Visualize it. Zero in on some key details that will give you a sense of the world that you're building. Picture a character in the space. Are they alone? Are they waiting for someone? If they're with another character, who is it? Do they have something on their mind? If so, what is it? Starting with a place can often lead to character and story." - **Naomi Iizuka, #ENOUGH Selection Committee**



ROADMAP TO WRITING YOUR PLAY

Any playwright will tell you, there is no right way to write a play. But we thought a little help wouldn't hurt. Follow this roadmap to develop an idea into a first draft, get feedback, revise your writing, and submit your play! It took about a week for many past #ENOUGH writers to finish their play, but it's not a race! Take the time you need!



Part 1 - Getting to Your First Draft

We recommend taking an hour to do steps 1-3 in one sitting. Don't think! Write!

- 1 Sketch out three IDEAS for your short play.** Use one or more of the **Writing Prompts (pg 14)** provided or go your own direction. If it's helpful, you can use this format to frame your ideas: "This is a play about X. It begins when Y and ends when Z."

Example from last year's play, HULLABALOO: "This is a play about gun violence and American history. It begins when a circus ringleader kicks off his show and ends when he loses control of the circus act."

1

2

3

- 2 Select one of your ideas and create a list of CHARACTERS.** Try using this character mad lib:

"[Name] is a [age] [personality trait] [occupation] who wants to [super objective - not what the character wants in the short term, but their ultimate goal]"

Example from last year's play, MS. MARTIN'S MALAISE: "Ms. Martin is a 32 year-old anxious teacher who wants to do the right thing and not make a mistake."

1

2

3

4

More than four characters? Continue on a separate sheet!



Go further with this challenge from Don Zolidis, #ENOUGH Selection Committee: "Try to create a character with some tension between "personality trait" and either "occupation" or "goal." That way you have yourself a character with a built-it conflict of some kind."

- 3 Give your play a TITLE and write a 1-3 sentence synopsis of your 10-minute play.** *Make the 1st sentence about the **BEGINNING**, make the 2nd sentence about the **MIDDLE**, and make the 3rd sentence about the **END**. Consider having the synopsis focus on the protagonist (i.e. main character) of your play by mentioning that character in all three sentences.*

TITLE:

- 4 Write your first draft!** How long should you take? Give yourself **less than a week**. It doesn't have to be right, it just has to be written. Just take it from #ENOUGH Selection Committee's **Mary Kathryn Nagle**:



"Do NOT give up! Your rough draft will be ROUGH, that is the point of a rough draft! Do not despair. Keep writing. Finishing your rough draft of what you are writing is always the most difficult. Just know that writing is a journey. Often times the best ideas come while you are writing and rewriting, not necessarily brainstorming. If you get an idea, try it. Don't start by criticizing it. You can always re-write it!"

And when you are done, check the box below!



**BOOMSHAKALAKA! FIRST DRAFT
COMPLETION ACHIEVED!**

Keep going! The fun really begins on the next page!

Part 2 - Feedback and Revision

- 5** Don't touch that first draft for a few days. Think about it all you want, but let it sit.
- 6** Few days have passed? OK, good. Now, go back and read your draft. Jot down some things you notice about your play having been away from it for a couple of days. *What excites you? What do you want to work on?*

- 7** Have a teacher, mentor or friend read your draft. Ask them to provide 1-3 notes on what sticks with them and what seemed a bit unclear.



Go further: If you are working with a group of classmates and want to up your feedback beyond just saying "I like this" and "I don't like that," scan the QR code to check out **Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process**. In four simple steps you can become pros of giving and receiving great feedback.

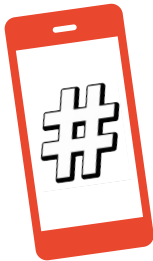
Part 3 - The Final Stretch and Submitting Your Play

- 8 Select the notes that you think will help shape your draft and revise your play.
- 9 Grab some friends and do a reading just to hear your play aloud.
- 10 Revise the play (if necessary), revisiting steps 7, 8, and 9. Know that you may never feel like the play is perfect and **THAT'S OK!** No piece of writing ever is.
- 11 Prepare your final draft for submission. Review the **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PLAY** on pg. 5-7.
- 12 Upload your completed **#ENOUGH** play to www.enoughplays.com/submit and check the box below!



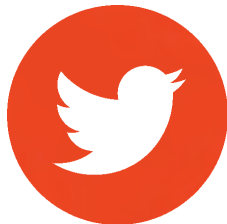
YOU WROTE A PLAY AND SENT IT IN! YOU ARE AWESOME! WE CAN'T WAIT TO READ YOUR SCRIPT!

13



Amplify your voice even more: share why you wrote your play on social media.

We want to hear from you and amplify your voice! Record a **60 second video** telling the world what your play is about and why you wrote it. Post it to social media using **#sayingenough**, add the [enoughplays.com](http://www.enoughplays.com) link to your bio, and invite your friends to write and submit a play of their own! Don't forget to tag us!



@enoughplays



@enoughplaysproject



NEXT STEPS



South Bend Civic Theatre South Bend, IN

Get others to write! #ENOUGH is for all the teens in your community to raise their voices! We challenge you to get your peers to write plays. You can:

- Print the poster at the end of this toolkit (pg 25) and put it up at your school, your library, your church and your local theatre, if you have one.
- Bring #ENOUGH to other teachers in your school, like your civics, social studies, creative writing, and english teachers. Maybe your school can have bragging rights of most plays submitted!

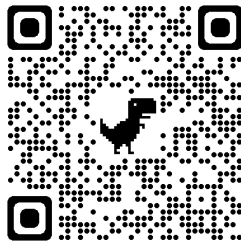
Make sure your community is a part of our Nationwide Reading!

Your community can join #ENOUGH's national conversation about gun violence. We will share the plays chosen by the Selection Committee to any school, theatre, or community organization for FREE who wants to put on the plays as part of an evening of simultaneously staged readings on April 20, 2022, the 23-year mark of Columbine. Visit enoughplays.com/reading for more information and resources.

Find an audience for your play! Hey, you wrote a play! Whether we end up selecting your play for the Nationwide Reading or not, your play should be seen! Get your school to let you present it or do it on your own and invite your family and friends. You could even do it and post it to social media! However way you do it, your community should hear from YOU! And we want to hear how it goes!

Got Questions? We have answers to Frequently Asked Questions on the pages for both our **Call for Submissions** and our **Nationwide Reading**. But if you can't find an answer there, reach out to us at enoughplays@gmail.com.

Use this QR code to access
ALL resources in this
section on our website.



FURTHER READING

(links in orange)

DATA AND STATISTICS

Gun Violence Archive This resource provides raw data on gun related incidents in the United States. Among the statistics it tracks are the ages of individuals involved in gun violence, officer involved incidents, suicides, and mass shootings, with maps that indicate where these incidents happened. Each incident is numbered and connected to an article or source that verifies the incident.

An Atlas of American Gun Violence Explore how gun violence has marked your corner of the country. This map was built with data collected by Gun Violence Archive.

EveryStat for Gun Safety EveryStat for Gun Safety was designed for users to better understand how gun violence impacts the communities they care about.

Every mass shooting in the US - a visual database Since 2014 the US has averaged more than one mass shooting a day, according to data from the Gun Violence Archive. There is no official definition of “mass shooting”, but this database tracks incidents in which at least four people are shot or killed, not including the shooter.

PERSONAL STORIES

Please Note: *Given the sensitive and emotional nature of these stories, these resources may be triggering.*

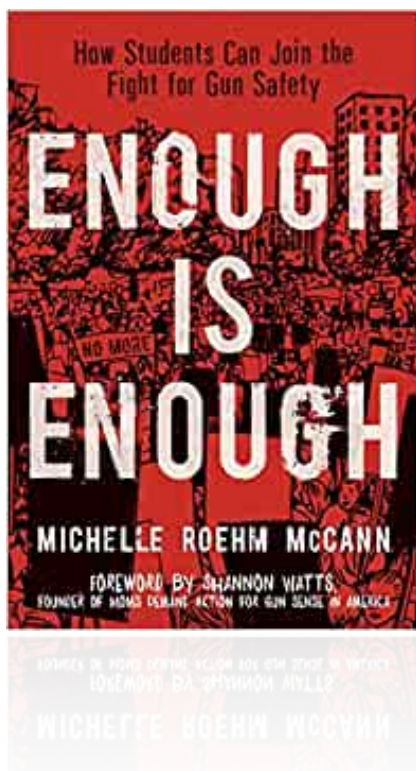
Moments that Survive Gun violence survivors share their stories in their own words.

Since Parkland Student reporters attempt to tell the stories of every child and teenager, ages 18 and younger, killed by a gun in the 12 months since Parkland.

Aftermath Aftermath tells the stories of nine of America’s hundreds of thousands of gunshot survivors. Their backgrounds and circumstances stories all vary, but they share one defining truth: Each had their lives changed by the path of a bullet.

Shot and Forgotten The toll of America’s gun violence epidemic is usually measured in lives lost – more than 35,000 each year. Ignored, almost completely, are the many more people who are shot every year, and survive.

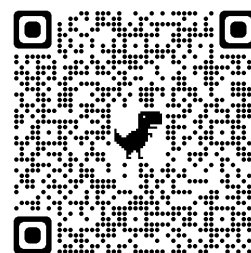
Nonfiction Books about Gun Violence in America



Enough is Enough: How Students Can Join the Fight for Gun Safety by Michelle Roehm McCann

Written in four parts (*The Problems, How We Got Here, The Solutions* and *Take Action!*) this book is an all in one guide for the concerned young person who wants to do something in their community on gun violence.

Download a FREE copy: Thanks to a generous gift by WB Television, #ENOUGH has a limited number of FREE digital copies of *Enough is Enough*. Scan the QR code to the right and fill out the Google form to receive your copy, while supplies last.



Below are some of the resources listed in the back of Enough is Enough.

#NeverAgain: A New Generation Draws the Line by David Hogg and Lauren Hogg Written by survivors of the Parkland massacre, this is their story and their statement of intent for the movement they launched. Their generation is standing up to the inaction of our politicians and determined to overcome all obstacles in their way. This is their guidebook to the #NeverAgain movement and student activism.

The Gun Debate: What Everyone Needs to Know by Philip J. Cook and Kristin A. Goss Written in Q&A format, the book explains the statistics and rhetoric surrounding America's gun debate. This book is helpful for getting a clear, fact-based account of the issues surrounding guns in America.

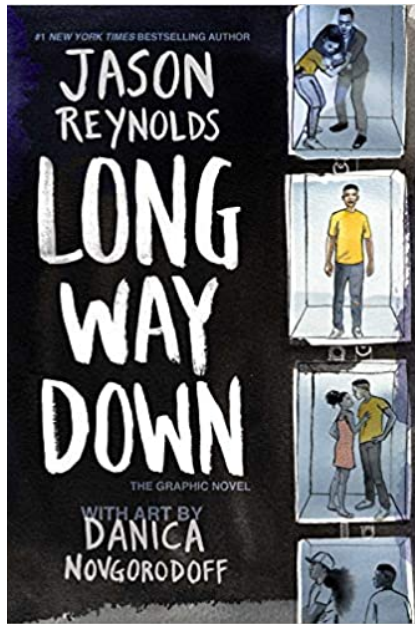
Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America by Adam Winkler This book looks at the history of America's battle over gun control and the right to bear arms, since the ratification of the Second Amendment in 1791. It gives a detailed look into the emotional debate currently raging in our country.

Shot: 101 Survivors of Gun Violence in America by Kathy Shorr In 101 photos, this book highlights survivors from across America (from all races and ethnicities) who have been shot and survived and have a story to tell. Most of the pictures were taken at the shooting locations.

Enough is Enough contains even more nonfiction and fiction books, articles and movies, as well as more information about prominent gun safety organizations and student activists.

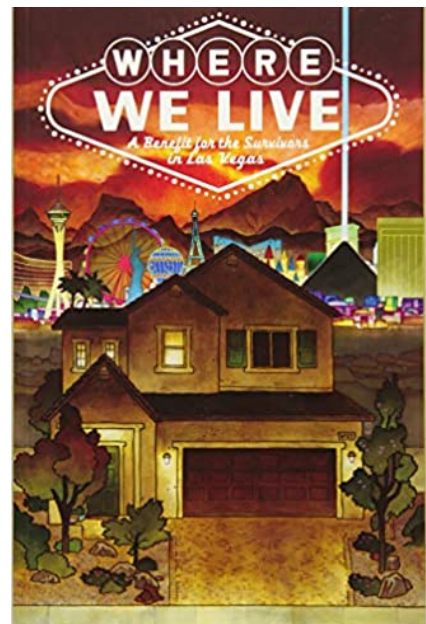
For Innovation: Graphic Novels

From #ENOUGH's Michael Cotey: "The two books below have stood out to me as impactful and thought-provoking explorations of gun violence. Because both are graphic novels, you'll see how the authors use both **words** and **images** to tell their story"

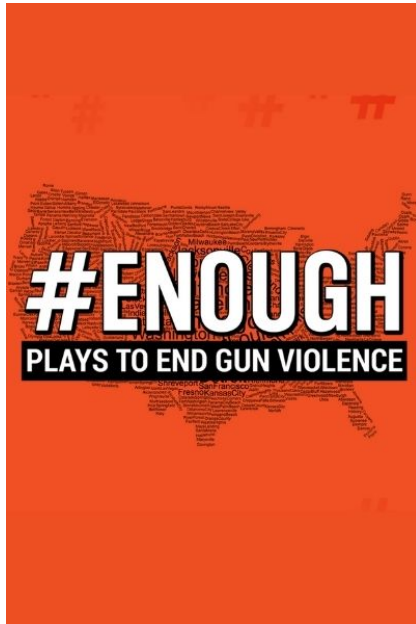


Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel by Jason Reynolds, illustrations by Danica Novgorodoff From Publishers Weekly: "Will, 15, is following his neighborhood's well-established rules—don't cry, don't snitch, but do get revenge "if someone you love/ gets killed"—when he leaves his apartment, intent on killing whoever murdered his older brother, Shawn...As Will makes his way to the ground floor of his building, the elevator stops to accept passengers, each an important figure from his past, all victims of gun violence. Are these ghosts? Or is it Will's subconscious at work, forcing him to think about what he intends to do and what it will accomplish? The story unfolds in the time it takes for the elevator to descend, and it ends with a two-word question that hits like a punch to the gut...this is a tour de force from a writer who continues to demonstrate his skill as an exceptionally perceptive chronicler of what it means to be a black teen in America." Adapted from *the young adult novel of the same name*. (14+)

Where We Live: Las Vegas Shooting Benefit Anthology by J.H. Williams III, and more From Library Journal: "...a collection of 75 short comics from creators around the world in response to the 2017 mass shooting [in Las Vegas], the worst in modern American history. Eyewitness accounts, quirky parables and allegories, commentaries from varied viewpoints, and fictional entries about violence, victims, and community comprise this devastating kaleidoscopic. The more than 160 contributors, including numerous comics luminaries present various art styles that collectively exhibit beauty, thoughtfulness, and visceral punch in depicting tragedy and compassion...This wrenching and inspiring read deserves prominent display in all public and high school libraries to encourage meditation, understanding, and discussion among everyone willing to look beyond the headlines." (13+)



For Inspiration: Plays about Gun Violence



#ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence by **Adelaide Fisher, Eislinn Gracen, Azya Lyons, Debkanya Mitra, Olivia Ridley, Sarah Schechter and Elizabeth Shannon** Selected by award-winning playwrights Lauren Gunderson, David Henry Hwang, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Robert Schenkkan, and Karen Zacarias, these seven powerful short plays written by and for teens confront gun violence through the lenses of race, police brutality, community violence, school shootings, and American mythology.

Learn more about the playwrights and their plays.

Read for FREE. (sign up with Playscripts to access)

View a virtual production of the 2020 plays for FREE.
(sign up with Broadway on Demand to access)

The list below is by no means comprehensive, but we hope it serves as further inspiration. Seek out any plays that might interest you to see how that playwright has decided to write about gun violence

*Some playwrights listed are featured in this American Theatre article "**Plays About Guns with Varying Aims.**"*

26 Pebbles by **Eric Ulloa** Similar in style to *The Laramie Project*, playwright Eric Ulloa conducted interviews with members of the community in Newtown and crafted them into an exploration of gun violence and a small town shaken by a horrific event.

columbinus by **Stephen Karam and PJ Paparelli** A play sparked by the April 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., [*columbinus*] weaves together excerpts from discussions with parents, survivors and community leaders in Littleton as well as police evidence to bring to light the dark recesses of American adolescence.

Declaration by **Jonathan Dorf** A group of students gets up in the morning, jumping into the expected cycle of every school day--but today, the school they go to is part of a larger, terrifying cycle of mass shootings, in a series of connected scenes and monologues that occur before, during, and after the event.

This Flat Earth by **Lindsay Ferrentino** Stuck at home in a state of shocked limbo, Julie and Zander, two thirteen-year-olds, try to make sense of the chaos they've witnessed, their awkward crushes, and an infinitely more complicated future - but the grown-ups are no help at all.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY PLAYS

The Amish Project by Jessica Dickey

Church & State by Jason Odell Williams

The Events by David Greig

Office Hour by Julia Cho

The Library by Scott Z. Burns

Mockingbird adapted by Julie Jensen from the National Book award-winning novel by Kathryn Erkin

Natural Shocks by Lauren Gunderson

On the Exhale by Martin Zimmerman

Ripe Frenzy by Jennifer Barlcay

Mental Health Resources

Writing about such heavy material can be hard and draining. Make sure to check in with how you are feeling and take breaks if necessary to keep yourself as emotionally healthy as possible. Here are some resources to keep in your pocket for yourself or others.

Team Enough - List of Mental Health Resources

This is a helpful compilation of resources for suicide prevention and crisis intervention. Below are a few of the links available on that list.

5 Action Steps For Helping Someone In Emotional Pain

Coping Tips for Traumatic Events and Disasters

Strength After *A resource for disaster survivors.*

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline *Online Resources for loss survivors.*

*Worried about a friend? Be proactive – use this **resource to anonymously get someone the help they need.***

National Suicide Hotline

1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Text 741741

Disaster Distress Helpline

1-800-985-5990

Teen Line:

1-800-TLC-TEEN (852-8336) or Text TEEN to 839863

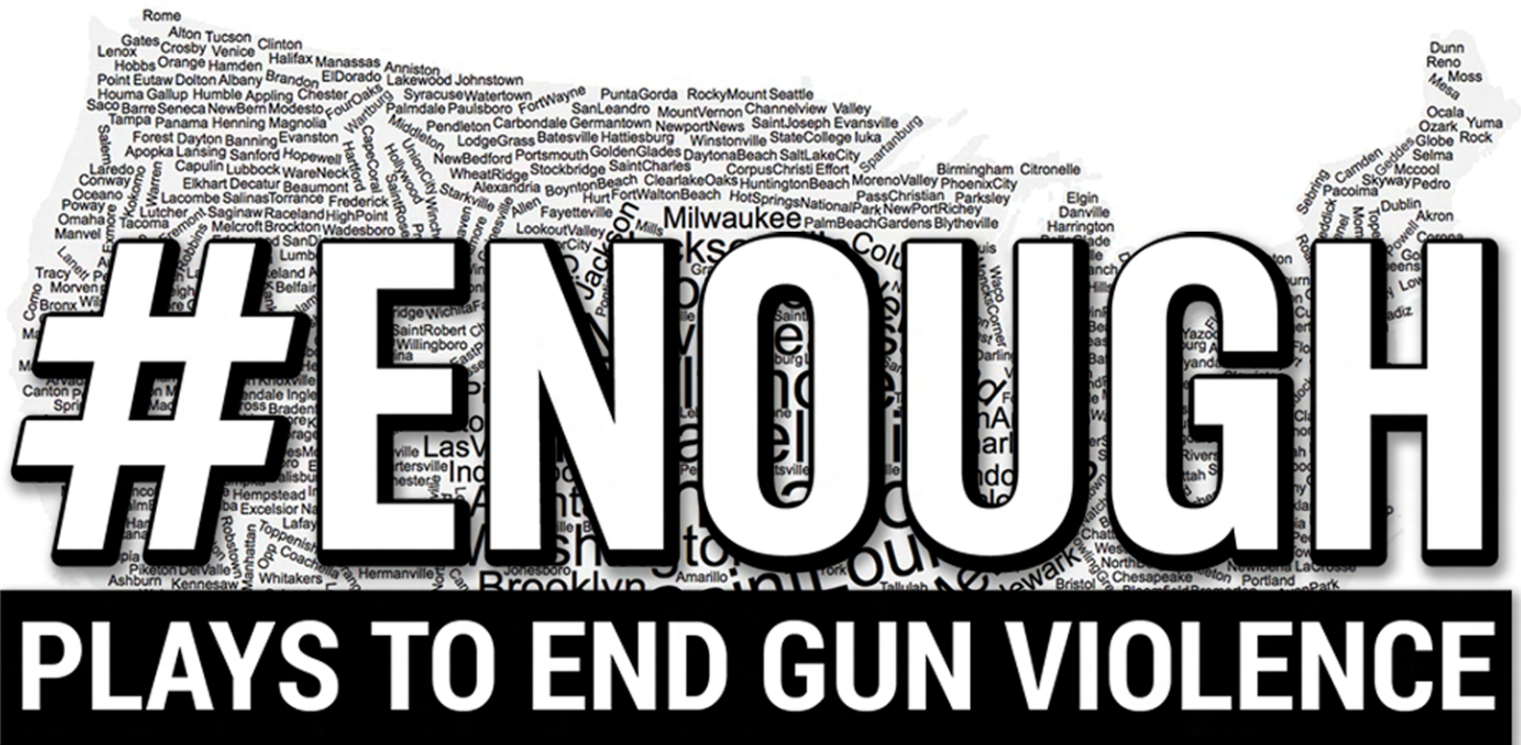
"This is *precisely* the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity, no need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

- Toni Morrison

DEADLINE NOVEMBER 1, 2021

CALLING ALL TEENS

**Write a 10-MIN PLAY confronting gun violence
for the chance to have it heard across the country!**



\$500

Get PAID!



Get PRODUCED!



Get PUBLISHED!



ENOUGHPLAYS.COM

CHANCE *THE* REF

DRAMATISTS GUILD



Playscripts