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ADAPTING THE YABP AND PREPARING FOR PERSONAL STATEMENT DAY: A BUSY WEEKEND

Posted on November 12, 2011 by Danny Hom, Programs and Social Media Manager



It may be overcast and damp across Los Angeles, but do we even need to remind you that there's no such thing as dampened enthusiasm at 826LA?

This morning was one occasion of the rare [field trip](#) at 826LA that takes place on a Saturday rather than a weekday. Our center in Venice, where we're usually hosting a public school student group from the [Los Angeles, Culver City, or Santa-Monica Malibu](#) Unified School Districts, welcomed Matt Van

Working on a screenplay with his tutor Lucas, Venice Arts film enthusiast Dustin adapts a story by Dorsey student Kendra Glover as instructor Matt looks on.

Gelder's kids from the fun-packed "Movie Madness" class at local nonprofit [Venice Arts](#).

For the VA students, who have spent six weeks focused on film education, the morning visit to 826LA was a unique opportunity to work one-to-one with our volunteers on a new story told through the language of real filmmakers. We asked them to select their favorite stories from our book released earlier this year, *From the Couch to the Kitchen*. Like the visiting VA crowd, *From the Couch to the Kitchen* had contributing authors from Los Angeles youth. The stories they wrote at [Dorsey High School](#), with names like *The Journey for Barbecue Chicken* and crowd favorite *Burgers for Breakfast*, were adapted to short screenplays in an hour-and-a-half. (We even explained to these blossoming filmmakers why the rights to adapt these food stories were easy to come by: they're reworking what was itself originally an 826LA project.)

So we have this tale of youthful rebellion originally told by Dorsey High School's Steven Lawton (*Peaceful and Calm with Great Food and Service*):

I normally go [to Toast Bakery] with my aunt. I don't know how we started going there, but now it seems like it's our religion to go on Sundays after church. Honestly, this is the only reason why I go to church. I don't know if you have ever been to a Catholic service, but can i just simply, BORING? My aunt is into the church scene. She is always mad at me during service because she'll find me doing one of these things: texting in the restroom, sleeping on the bench, or buying something outside.

In the screenplay of young VA screenwriter Samdhi, it's this:

INT. TOAST BAKERY – MORNING

STEVEN and AUNT walking to the table near garden led by MATT.

MATT

You want the same thing right?

STEVEN AND AUNT

Yes.

Matt brings GRAPEFRUIT JUICE.

AUNT

Why don't you like Catholic service?

STEVEN

I told you it's boring.

AUNT

I know.

When our VA friends left at noon, simultaneous training sessions for our upcoming [Personal Statement Day](#) began in Echo Park and Venice. It's phenomenally exciting to see so many eager bodies who are going to be helping out next weekend (once they've gotten the prep they need today):



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