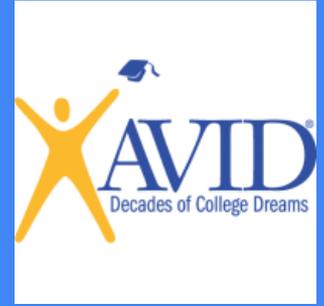


# AVID Writing Contest

“A Moment in Time”

Douglas Garriss ELA/AVID/ELD Coordinator  
Annaben Kazemi Math Coordinator

# Vision of a Writing Contest



**Bryan Owens** and **Benjamin Owens** are the cofounders of a nonprofit, **Silicon Valley Youth**, composed of high school students who teach classes in U.S. history, economics, math and coding for a fee. **All the profits go to Ravenswood.**

***Bryan Owens shares, “We’re hoping the prompt and the incentive will give them more joy in writing.”***

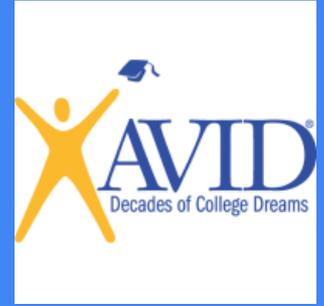


Bryan Owens



Benjamin Owens

# AVID Writing Contest Specifics



Title: “A Moment in Time”

When: Fall 2016

Who: Ravenswood students enrolled in AVID

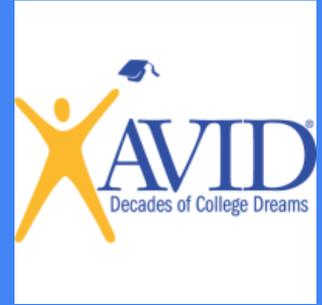
Where: AVID elective classes

Why: To foster a joy for writing

How: Through the hard work of students, AVID elective teachers, C&I administrators and the co-founders of Silicon Valley Youth



# AVID

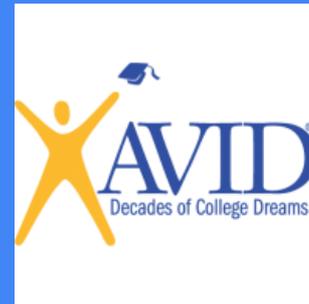


**AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.**



**AVID is a college preparation program that helps students who are traditionally underrepresented gain access to higher education. AVID is part of Ravenswood's LCAP plan to help our students make a successful transition to high school.**

# AVID Elective Teachers



## Belle Haven

Amelia Siegel

Stuart Shiraishi

Chelsea Card

## Chavez

Amanda Garcia

## Costano

David Hicks

## McNair

Nicole Sullivan

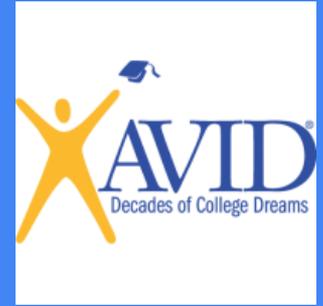
Kristina Morgan

## Willow Oaks

Nancy Kerrebrock

Louis DeZutti

# Creating a Curriculum



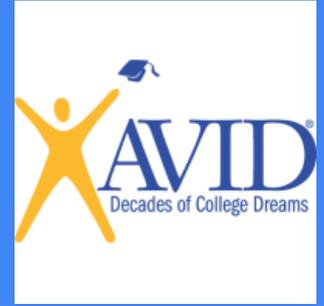
## *Characteristics of Memoirs*

- ✓ *A memory; a description of an event from the past*
- ✓ *Written in the first person; told from one person's point of view*
- ✓ *Based on the truth*
- ✓ *Reveals the feelings of the writer*
- ✓ *Has meaning; shows what the author learned from the experience*
- ✓ *Focused on one event; about one point in the author's life*
- ✓ *About the author's experience more than about the event itself*

- Curriculum writers:  
**Doug Garriss & Annaben Kazemi**
- Unfolds in 10 days
- Anchor text:  
**"Woodsong" by Gary Paulsen**



# The Writing Prompts

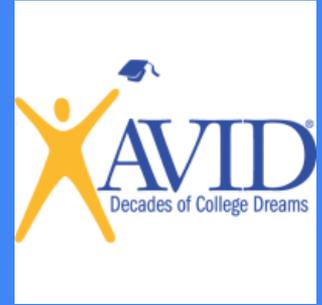


Reflect on a time when you were challenged. What was that challenge and how did you overcome it?

Reflect on a time when you experienced failure. How did you react to it? Would you make decisions differently? If so, how?

Discuss an accomplishment or event that marked your transition from childhood to adulthood within your culture, community or family.

# AVID Writing Contest



76 memoirs turned into district

16 district finalists selected



## Judging:

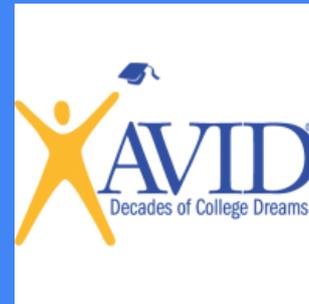
AVID teachers submitted up to 10 memoirs from their classes

Writing Contest Committee broke into 3 teams and double-scored the memoirs using a common rubric

Top memoirs moved on to next round

Contest Committee meet to re-read memoirs and ranked the finalists

# Highlights

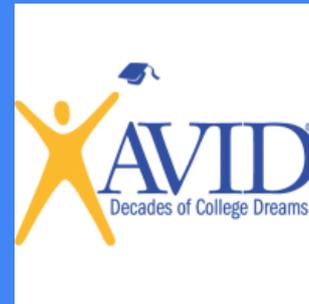


“The darkness surrounded me. I let my mind wander to my fears but I couldn't help thinking about him, my brother, which brought more tears to my already puffy eyes. Drip, drip, drop. My tears seemed to drop on the tile floor and echo around me, making me unable to stop crying.”

“With an uneasy sigh, I got up on my barefeet and walked toward my dusty window. Upon looking outside, I saw memories that my brother and I shared. Whether it be playing tag or just sitting outside, I enjoyed every second. My mouth curved into a smile but the rain kept falling down.”

“Felt like forever but when I opened my eyes and checked my phone, only a few minutes had passed by. My eyes watered and the rain fell louder than ever.”

# Highlights

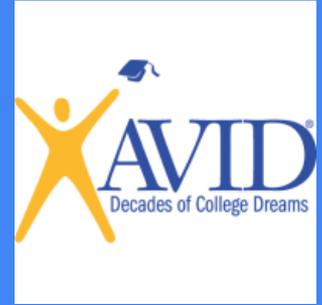


“He was watching one of those classic films in black and white. He says the best films are the ones made back then because the people didn’t do it for the money or popularity it would bring them, they did it for the happiness and satisfaction of seeing their name in the end credits.”

“We were told all our lives not to worry about the problems one day can bring us because everyday is a new day with a fresh start. But not a single person in this miserable world starts fresh- they are haunted with memories of the past and regret that fills their delicate hearts wretched day to wretched day.”

“I will take that memory with me to my grave because if I dare say a single word, it would be as if I were to cut the thin braided string that is the only thing holding my family together, releasing a pain that only death can take away.”

# Highlights



“Many people told me a lot of things about these Hot Cheetos...I slowly opened the bag, scared, as if they were going to burst out! I put my hand into the foil bag. The first thing I did when I took one out was to smell it. It smelled like rotten eggs, ewww! The smell left after a few seconds, and I started questioning. ‘How do I eat this?’ I stopped caring after a half a second. I bit in. It was very crunchy and lemony. My first impression wasn’t the best, but one by one they got better and better. I looked into the bag a few minutes later...the bag was empty!”

# The Prizes Donated by Silicon Valley Youth

1st Prize: iPad Mini 4

2nd Prize: \$25 Target Gift Card

3rd Prize: \$10 Gift Card



# AVID Writing Contest Celebration of Awards

