



April 28, 2017

Dear

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Creative Writing Program at NOCCA! We're looking forward to seeing you in August, when you'll begin an intensive study of writing. Our goal is to help you develop skills as a writer and reader of literature.

In order to be prepared for the rigor of the program, we ask that you write as much as possible this summer. Try to write every day! You will turn in 10 pages of creative writing (poetry, short fiction, creative non-fiction, dramatic writing) on the first day of school. We also require that you read six selections from the enclosed summer reading list; please follow the guidelines for Level I students.

Every summer we choose a text that all the students in the Creative Writing Department read (as one of your six books). This summer's selection is *Half of a Yellow Sun*, by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie. Please read the novel carefully, and consider how character is developed and plot is executed. You will be tested on the book the first week of school (yes, we're already talking about tests). If you've read the book thoughtfully, you'll do fine. You will also give a short presentation on one of the other five books you read this summer. Enclosed in the packet are presentation guidelines. This is a great way to introduce your book to your peers, and learn about books you haven't yet encountered.

If you have questions about the summer reading, please email Lara Naughton at [linaughton@nocca.com](mailto:linaughton@nocca.com). Please note that replies might be delayed due to summer break.

Again, congratulations on your acceptance to this highly selective program. We know you're passionate about language and storytelling, and we're excited to welcome you to NOCCA.

Best,

Lara Naughton  
Creative Writing Chair

**New Orleans Center For Creative Arts**

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