

MYTH #1: I can live at the Writers House.

REALITY: The Writers House *is* an actual house, a lovely arts and crafts style cottage, complete with a kitchen, fireplace, book cases, comfy couches and lots of nooks and crannies, but we are not a residential space. The House is very much inhabited, however.

MYTH #2: The Writers House is a club.

REALITY: There is no secret knock at the Writers House. It is an officially designated “Institute” on campus, which means that we are a unique third space that blends the academic, social and intellectual lives of students. Anyone at all can be a part of the Writers House in a range of ways: coming to events, working on a student publication, working at the Writers House, joining the student initiatives committee, attending our community meetings, going on field trips to publishing houses, hanging out with friends (we’re open until 10PM), cooking dinner for an eminent author, reading your work at an open mic, or proposing and planning your own literary event or project. The list goes on.

MYTH #3: I have to be an English Major to come to the Writers House.

REALITY: The Writers House, like Franklin & Marshall generally, is committed to an interdisciplinary ethos. We present literary programs that are collaborations with disciplines across campus, like Philosophy, Pre-Healing Arts and International Studies to name just a few. Several times, in the mornings, we’ve found math equations on the blackboard that defy our powers of perception.

MYTH #4: This is where I come to get help writing my academic papers.

REALITY: As supportive as we are at the Writers House, there is a designated place on campus, the Writing Center, where you go to get help with all of the technical aspects of your class-assigned writing. They are located on the second floor of Diagonthian Hall. Call 291-3866 to make an appointment.

MYTH #5: The Writers House is for upper classmen.

REALITY: The Writers House thrives on a healthy mix of all class years, and we are always actively recruiting first-year students to join the Writers House Community, including the Writers House student staff, which is an excellent way to get to know students, here. We also have a Welcome Back Open Mic held during pre-orientation specifically designed to introduce new students to the Writers House Community. Recently, a first-year student read one of the better poems we’ve ever heard at Franklin & Marshall.

MYTH #6: The Writers House is where people work on the Great American Novel.

REALITY: It may be, but more likely they will be engaged in a variety of other reading- and writing-related activities. See number 2 above. We’ll be happy, of course, to support anyone’s working on the Great American Novel, or on a Haiku, or on anything in between.