The Mid/Med Writing Project: Medical Students and Middle School Students Document Experiences of the COVID-19 Pandemic
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Objectives
• Explore lessons learned from a writing group of medical school students and middle school
• Compare themes of the student writings

Methods
Participants wrote to a given prompt and participated in "open mic" session x2 weeks
Students read pieces aloud, received feedback, and discussed
Students completed an anonymous survey detailing their experiences
Focus groups were conducted with both groups of students, and writings were collected
Data analyzed using survey and inductive content analysis

Survey Results
Representative Comments:

Middle School Students:
“Pressure to succeed”
“Friendship”
“Family”
“Hope for Future”

Medical School Students:
“Pressure to succeed”
“Friendship”
“Family”
“Hope for Future”

Survey results indicate:
- 80% of middle schoolers would participate again
- 100% of medical schoolers would participate again
- 80% of medical students agreed to some degree participating helped them process thoughts and feelings about the pandemic
- 80% of middle school students agreed to some degree participating helped them process thoughts and feelings about the pandemic
- 100% of middle schoolers agree the project gave them confidence working with older students

Themes Common to Both Groups of Students

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pressure to succeed</th>
<th>Friendship</th>
<th>Family</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hope for Future</td>
<td>Memories</td>
<td>Hobbies</td>
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Discussion
• Despite differences in age and experience, both groups of students wrote about similar themes, feelings, and archetypes
• By creating, sharing, and discussing reflective writing about the pandemic, students gained self-confidence, perspective, and empathy
• Both groups gained understanding of the other group, as well as themselves, through participation
• Next steps include a writing group with medical school and middle school students over a longer timeframe to evaluate changes in writing and development of near-peer relationships and mentoring

Acknowledgments
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