About Shout Mouse Press:
Shout Mouse Press (www.ShoutMousePress.org) is a writing and publishing program dedicated to amplifying underheard voices. We provide opportunities for writers from marginalized communities to tell their own stories and, as published authors, to act as agents of change.

Shout Mouse authors have produced original children’s books, novels, comics, and memoir and poetry collections that expand empathy, advance social justice, and increase understanding of underheard perspectives. Thus far we have produced 40 books by incarcerated, immigrant, minority, and otherwise marginalized youth in DC and Haiti. See all books here: shoutmousepress.org/catalog

Opportunity:
We are seeking Story Coaches to support seniors at Ballou High School in SE DC with college and scholarship essays.

In partnership with the AVID and College Summit programs at Ballou HS, we coach Ballou juniors and seniors to write authentic, voice-driven personal essays for their college and scholarship applications. We are honored to work with these students on these important pieces; there is no more crucial time to powerfully capture your life story -- doing so well can literally change the trajectory of your life.

Your Role:
Story Coaches will work one-on-one with students on personal statements during the school day and occasionally after school at Ballou SHS. Schedules will vary depending on student need and availability; generally Shout Mouse story coaches go 1 day a week for 2-4 hours a day. The role of the Story Coach is to coach students to write authentic, voice-driven essays while helping students discover and apply principles for effective writing.

Qualifications:
- Required:
  - Strong command of written storytelling techniques and narrative problem-solving. To encourage as much creativity, originality, and experimentation as possible, we do not provide any template for these personal narratives. You’ll do a lot of thinking on your feet and need a solid background in storytelling principles to effectively guide student authors.
Experience working with teens, especially those from under-resourced communities. Must be high-energy and a good motivator and mediator.

Skilled and professional communicator and collaborator, both with project leader and with teen authors,

Ability to work independently, take initiative, and meet all required deadlines

Investment in mission and history of engagement in social justice, equity, and diversity initiatives

Preferred:

- MFA in Creative Writing
- Publications in creative nonfiction / personal essay
- Interest in long-term relationship working with Shout Mouse on other book projects (children’s books, YA novels, etc.)

We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Shout Mouse is committed to building a culturally diverse team and to providing professional development opportunities for the next generation of diverse artists and writers. We strongly encourage applications from racial and/or religious minorities, members of the LGBTQ community, individuals with disabilities, and members of other underrepresented groups.

We are especially interested in working with teaching artists who live in Wards 7 and 8 in Washington, DC.

**Project Timeline:**

- Training: February 2020
- Workshops: Feb - April, variable schedule, 1 day/week, 2-4 hours/day during school hours with occasional opportunities for after-school support

**Location:**

Ballou Senior High School
3401 4th St SE
Washington, DC 20032

**Compensation:** Hourly, commensurate with experience.

**Interested?** Please send a resume + brief email detailing your interest to Alexa Patrick, Programs Manager, alexa@shoutmousepress.org.