

**THE ANTI-
RACIST
WRITING
WORKSHOP**

**HOW TO DECOLONIZE
THE CREATIVE
CLASSROOM**

FELICIA ROSE CHAVEZ

A captivating mix of memoir and progressive teaching strategies, this book demonstrates how to be culturally attuned, twenty-first century educators. *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* is a call to create healthy, sustainable, and empowering classroom communities. Award-winning educator Felicia Rose Chavez exposes the invisible politics of power and privilege that have silenced writers of color for far too long.

Finally, a teaching model that protects and platforms students of color, because every writer deserves access to a public voice. For everyone looking to liberate their thinking from “the way it’s always been done,” *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* is a clear, compelling guidebook.

Praise for THE ANTI-RACIST WRITING WORKSHOP

“This book is fire. This book is a devotion. With personal anecdotes and memories, with brilliant readings of spaces, classrooms, and texts, Felicia Rose Chavez communicates so much of what is truly at stake in the classroom: our voices, our histories, and our capacities to live ethically, curiously, and in true and deep connection with ourselves and others. I think of June Jordan whose work and legacy swirls all through here: ‘It is always the love that will carry action into positive new places, that will carry your own nights and days beyond demoralization and away from suicide.’ With that same sense of seriousness and fierce love, Chavez stunningly orients readers toward the ongoing and vital study we can imagine and be in together if we commit to this practice. This book is a gorgeous dismantling just as it is an urgent offering up of strategies and questions. My heart is so alive reading this.”

—ARACELIS GIRMAY, author of *The Black Maria*

“‘How does one write but not necessarily learn voice?’ This is one of the most halting and necessary questions Felicia Rose Chavez poses in *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop*. What Chavez presents from her experience as workshop participant, artist, activist, and professor is vital and generous. She expertly outlines the steps to produce a nurturing, collaborative, inclusive space for BIPOC writers where the core tenets are about emotional recognition, writing rituals, representative reading lists, and fully collaborative workshops where no one is silenced. *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* breaks down how a universal acclimation to inherently racist practices in workshops has stifled and harmed students of color. Chavez shares a methodology that is pure, enlightened, encouraging, and productive, allowing creators of color to understand their value and potential. As an author, editor, and teacher I found myself wholly changed by *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* and will be implementing much of this thinking and these actions to facilitate more accountability and unity within the workshop environment.”

—JENNIFER BAKER, editor of *Everyday People: The Color of Life—A Short Story Anthology*

“There is power in the words we write. Understanding how we can use those words to build community, challenge racism, and decolonize classrooms is the work of anti-racist educators. Felicia Rose Chavez has skillfully and lovingly done all three in a book that will transform how we write to create an anti-racist world. The writing rituals, questions to push anti-racist thinking, and explanation on how we complete the literary canon will leave the reader with the necessary tools to become a teacher who is building a new world. Chavez lays out powerful and inclusive ways to model a writing workshop structure that would make June Jordan proud.”

—DR. BETTINA L. LOVE, author of *We Want to Do More Than Survive*

“Part memoir, part pedagogical tract, part guidebook, part testimony, *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop: How to Decolonize the Creative Classroom* is everything. ‘Dismantle’ has become a trendy word in our current historical moment. We use it, but don’t really know how to dismantle. Felicia Rose Chavez personifies the word. True to the adage, she shows us, doesn’t tell us. When it comes to anti-racist pedagogy, most instructors go silent after acknowledging that systemic oppression exists in classrooms worldwide. They go silent as a form of denial, resistance, or they need the how-to, the step-by-step instructions and tools to work with. Chavez brilliantly confronts our comfort levels and our played out forms of teaching. *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* is a vital book. If we are truly going to learn, write, and read in an equitable, supportive, creative, humanity-driven environment that seeks to replace white-centered, patriarchal teaching techniques, this book is required reading. It’s bound to be an instant classic. Word to everything I love.

—WILLIE PERDOMO, author of *The Crazy Bunch*

“Felicia Chavez’s *The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* is a generational intervention. Chavez is expanding expectations of how-to books while giving radical generative portals of entry into workshop reconstruction. Every writing teacher on Earth needs this book.”

—KIESE LAYMON, author of *Heavy*

“*The Anti-Racist Writing Workshop* is an intelligent and necessary rethinking of the creative writing workshop. It provides a map to diversify the workshop and its aesthetics, to restructure its power dynamics, and to align the process of critique more with basic principles of creativity and psychology. We’re in a profound cultural and political shift now around race, and Felicia Rose Chavez’s book will aid others on that path.

—DAVID MURA, author of *A Stranger’s Journey*

ABOUT THE BREAKBEAT POETS SERIES

The BreakBeat Poets series, created by Kevin Coval and Nate Marshall, is committed to work that brings the aesthetic of hip-hop practice to the page. These books are a cipher for the fresh, with an eye always to the next. We strive to center and showcase some of the most exciting voices in literature, art, and culture.

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**How to Decolonize
the Creative Classroom**

Felicia Rose Chavez



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