

Read our feature in the Reader in [magazine form here](#) or [online here](#)!  
[View Online](#) Or [Forward](#) to a friend



## You Can Build Students' Creativity and Confidence

Did you know that the [Chicago Reader wrote a four-page feature on EPIC](#), Silk Road Rising's in-class arts-learning program? (Click [HERE](#) to read it online). Journalist Aimee Levitt reported on how transformative the experience can be for students: "Through writing, [the students] have a way of **making their voices heard** by their classmates, their teachers, and people in their communities."

“Against a backdrop of politicized culture, there's something profound about 16-year-olds crafting debates that are respectful toward opposing viewpoints. **EPIC is also teaching democracy** and the ability to hear and appreciate other views.”

— Co-founder Jamil Khoury, as quoted by the *Reader*

Through [EPIC \(Empathic Playwriting Intensive Course\)](#), we have empowered thousands of Chicago Public Schools students to discover their voice and to learn how to use it through the power of storytelling. In 2017, we worked with over 500 students.

Our intensive approach is focused on depth of learning and gives students valuable experience in writing and civic engagement across 20 sessions as they each write 10-minute plays about issues in their communities. [You can support the next generation of storytellers by making a donation today.](#)

“Because of EPIC, I have a more open mindset. Instead of drawing conclusions about others, I try to understand why they’re doing what they’re doing.”

**DONATE  
NOW**

Participating students are working through complex issues with support from teaching artists. “They are crafting plays with a wide array of topics including bullying, environmental conservation, racism, stereotypes, and many more,” states Education Coordinator Tracy Strimple.

With \$85 million cut from Chicago Public School budgets last year, arts education programs are often the first to go. However, Silk Road Rising has taken on the mantle of providing arts learning to over 500 students. In order to continue this effort, we'll need [your support](#).

YOU can help students develop curiosity and empathy by supporting EPIC arts learning program. [Give Today](#) and help us serve the next generation of storytellers.

**I'm ready to give!**

**P.S. Did you know there are three ways to donate to Silk Road Rising?** Simply visit [www.SilkRoadRising.org/donate](http://www.SilkRoadRising.org/donate), mail your check to Silk Road Rising (77 W. Washington St., BSMT, Chicago, IL 60602), or call Malik Gillani ([312-857-1234 x202](tel:312-857-1234)) to give by phone and support arts learning in Chicago.



*Empathy  
onstage*

Teaching artist Alex Sooin works with students as part of an EPIC class at Westinghouse College Prep in East Garfield Park.   
#SRRR #EPIC

Silk Road Rising introduces a new kind of arts education to Chicago Public Schools students: the Empathetic Playwriting Intensive Course.   
By AIMEE LEVITT

**“What is a conflict?”**  
Levi Holloway asks.   
It's 7:30 AM on a Wednesday in the first-period senior drama class at Morgan Park High School on the southwest side. About 20 students are already here; a few more will filter in later. Some slouch in their seats or hunch over their desks, but they're listening. Holloway looks around the room and waits for someone to answer his question.   
“A problem,” one student answers.

12 CHICAGO READER • NOVEMBER 2, 2017

[Read the Chicago Reader Story Here!](#)

[Find the online version here, so you can share it easier!](#)



[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

[RSS](#)

---

SRR

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update your profile](#) | [Forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2017 All rights reserved.

Silk Road Rising  
77 W. Washington Street  
Pierce Hall  
Chicago, IL 60602  
[Add us to your address book](#)

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Silk Road Rising · 150 N Michigan Ave · Ste 1970 · Chicago, IL 60601 · USA