

Whitfield Guest Speaker - Gene Weingarten
Application for Workshop - Nov. 14, 2012
Dr. Thornton & Mr. Svab

We are pleased to have as our annual Whitfield English Lecturer this year Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and humorist Gene Weingarten. Mr. Weingarten is an experienced writer and editor, with a career that spans over 40 years, and most recently he has written feature articles and a humor column for *The Washington Post* and its Sunday magazine. While he considers himself an expert on humor, his most well-known pieces are the detailed and mostly serious profiles of people and places he has done for *The Post*. He has very strong and passionate opinions about humor, writing, and journalism, and he will be sharing his thoughts with a select group of students in a workshop on Nov. 14, 2012 during C period (9:50-11:15). He will also speak in assembly that day.

Participation in the workshop with Mr. Weingarten is open to all Upper School students. If you are interested in writing and journalism, or just want to know how to tell a good story, this workshop is for you. We will be accepted 15 students into the workshop.

Applicants need to follow these instructions carefully and completely to apply for a spot in the workshop.

1. Visit <http://bit.ly/CollegiateWhitfield2012>. Read as much as you can *by* and *about* Mr. Weingarten. Read most, if not all, of the eight “Feature Stories” linked at the lower end of the webpage. These will give you a sense of Mr. Weingarten’s humor, style, and purpose. Also read his introduction to *The Fiddler in the Subway*, accessible [HERE](#).
2. Write your own “mini-feature” story. Choose a place or person that you are interested in learning more about, and do a little research. Is there a neighbor you’ve always wanted to get to know better? Go ask some questions, and then write his/her story. Is there a restaurant or store you’ve always wanted to know more about? Or to meet the owner? Go ask some questions. Weingarten almost always manages to both impart information (in his role as journalist) and *tell a good story*. So go find an interesting story about a real place or person, and tell it in an interesting, grabbing, and original way.

Your “mini-feature” should be no more than 2 pages, double-spaced. There is no need to cite sources - we’ll take your word on it that you talked to real people and wrote the facts as best you understood them. If we like your piece, we might feature it on *The Match*!

3. E-mail your completed “mini-feature” to Mr. Svab (vsvab@collegiate-va.org) or share it through Google Drive¹ by **FRIDAY, OCT. 26**.
4. If you are selected to participate in the workshop, plan on missing your C period class on Wed., Nov. 14. You may also be asked to do some advance reading for the workshop.

If you have questions, see Mr. Svab or Dr. Thornton.

¹ Please name your document like this: “[First name] [Last name] Whitfield Application.” Don’t leave it as “Untitled Document.” If I had a dollar for all of “Untitled Documents” shared with me, I wouldn’t need to work here. -Mr. Svab