Appel Fellowship: Faculty Advisor Guide (2027 cohort)

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a faculty advisor to an Appel fellow. The Appel family generously donated funding to Claremont McKenna College to support first-year students in using writing as a tool for exploration and personal growth.

Appel fellowships provide first-year students with a unique opportunity to find inspiration in the act of writing. These fellowships are not internships. Instead, Appel fellows pursue a writing project, often with a significant travel component, around a theme or question that is significant for them. The project need not be related to their academic major, and they can write in any form/genre, but writing must be central to the project. Ideally they will develop a regular writing practice during the summer, one that allows them to grow and take risks as (imperfect, human, non-AI-assisted) writers while gaining a deeper understanding of themselves and their place in the world.

Faculty advisors are encouraged to support their fellows in the following ways:

- Before departure (spring semester):
    - Meet with the fellow at least once before their action plan deadline of **May 7th** to offer advice as they work on the action plan and to set a schedule for future check-ins.
    - Encourage the fellow to design a manageable and focused project.
    - Discuss the form of the final writing project. Fellows have written personal essays, interviews, blog or vlog posts, zines, fiction, poetry, screenplays, journalistic writing, podcasts, and documentary films; multimedia projects do need to incorporate or be accompanied by a significant writing component.
    - Help the fellow locate relevant resources for their project, for ex. suggesting useful background material, helping them developing a reading list, identifying individuals or organizations with whom the fellow might collaborate, or suggesting important locations the fellow might visit during their travels.
    - Offer guidance on the project objectives, project plan, and timeline for completion.
- Over the summer:
    - Be in touch with the fellow according to your agreed-upon schedule for progress reports, to offer feedback on work in progress, or just for accountability. It's great if you can set a schedule and medium (email, phone, zoom) for summer check-ins before students leave campus. Most fellows check in every 2-3 weeks.
    - *If you do not hear from your Fellow on schedule, please let me know!* I check in with students regularly to make sure they are safe and meeting their project goals, but it's helpful to know if they go silent on you!
- Mid- to Late-August:
    - Fellows must submit their final draft to you and to the program by **Sept. 17th**. No grade is needed, but please give these students' work a careful read and a thoughtful response, either in writing or in a conversation. We also advise them to send you a draft by late August for feedback before final submission.

Appel fellows must do the following to receive funding:

- Attend pre-departure orientation meetings and at least two writing workshops during this spring semester.
- Communicate with their faculty advisors over the summer.
- Send updates to the Appel fellowship coordinator and respond to check-in requests over the course of the summer.
- Submit a final draft of their project to their faculty advisors and to the Appel fellowship coordinator by Sept 18.
- Share their project with the CMC community (via the CWPD/Appel website, our January Ath celebration, on-campus panels and info sessions, and/or other forums). We hope to see you at an event in the future.

Appel advisors will receive a stipend of $500 per student advised. The stipend should appear in your October 2027 paycheck. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have! Thank you, again, for supporting our Appel fellows.

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