

THE ELLIPSIS CLUB CHARTER

2020-21

The Student Activity and Affairs Committee
FLAME University
August 2020

Article I: Club Principles

This Student Club:

- Aims to contribute towards the enrichment of the lives of all members of FLAME University. It shall not discriminate with regard to race, religion, age, ethnic or national origin, gender, physical ability, or sexual orientation.
- Will respect that differing viewpoints exist, and will work towards understanding these viewpoints, and giving all members the right to voice their concerns as long as they are within the bounds of acceptable behavior within the FLAME Community.
- Will work towards strengthening, not fragmenting the FLAME Community. It will use its influence to impact positively, all of its members - and by extension, the FLAME Community.

Article II: Name and Logo

This club shall be known as The Ellipsis Club of FLAME University.



Article III: Purpose

The purpose of the Ellipsis Club shall be to provide a platform for creative expression through writing and performance to all those at FLAME University.

The Ellipsis Club is FLAME's first and only writing club. We are a safe space for budding writers, performers and listeners alike and aim to inculcate the love and practice of writing in all its different forms. We are equally welcoming to non-writers as well and constantly strive to promote a culture of habitual writing. We provide an artistic platform where members can exercise free expression along with confidentiality when necessary; simultaneously extending our support to inculcate new forms of writing styles and genres. We host faculty-led and student-led workshops for different writing styles, conduct creative weekly meetings, and have performative as well as non-performative events. We are a tight-knit, integrative community of authors and poets who ideate and grow with one another. Considering the writing-intensive courses that Liberal Arts programs like ours offer, we hope to inspire students to perceive the art of writing in a different light– that of a medium of creative expression and a welcome respite from reality, not just an academic apparatus.

Article IV: Club Leadership (Executive Committee)

The **President** of this club would be Ms. Shivika Dudeja of Batch UG 3.

The **Vice-President** of this club would be Ms. Saaniya Padaria of Batch UG 3.

The **Secretary** of this club would be Ms. Akshita Gupta of Batch UG 2.

The **Treasurer** of this club would be _____ of Batch UG ____.

The **Faculty/Staff Advisor** of this club would be Professor Dwarika Uniyal.

Following are the objectives of the Ellipsis Club-

- Objective 1- To create a platform for our community of writers to grow and nourish.
- Objective 2- To introduce new writing genres and performing styles through our weekly meetings and events in order to become wholesome, evolved writers.
- Objective 3- To arrange consistent open mic sessions to help slam poets and performers gain experience in front of different audiences.
- Objective 4- To initiate interactive workshops with FLAME faculty and other professionals to gain exposure to new, unexplored writing forms.
- Objective 5- To collaborate with other clubs to facilitate more unique and multi-disciplinary creative events.
- Objective 6- To establish a strong social media presence through our club website and Instagram handle.

We think these objectives will have a positive impact on society because they will facilitate the growth of all the participants on an individual level as well as the growth of the entire community. These aims would help nurture creativity and provide budding writers, the exposure and experience to improve their writing skills. We believe that this will help consolidate an active community of writers that can channel their voice to advocate their opinions in a supportive environment and address issues close to their hearts.

Closing statement: The aforementioned objectives represent the main purpose of the club: to inspire creativity and provide solace through writing. Our club plan for the academic session of 2020-21 outlines a detailed plan to accomplish these objectives.

Article V: Membership

Membership shall be open to all students of FLAME University. Currently the membership is as follows:

Sr. No	Name	Batch	Designation
1	Saachi Pai Kane	FSLE2019	Member
3	Vidisha Kedia	FSLE2019	Member
4	Dheer Sanghavi	FSLE2018	Member
5	Ritvik Gupta	FSLE2019	Member
6	Chavi Jain	FSLE2019	Member
7	Mudita Tekriwal	FSLE2019	Member
8	Saaya Vaidya	FSLE2019	Member
9	Robin James	FSLE2018	Member
10	Hamsini Pratapa	FSLE2019	Member
11	Rinzing Chingapa	FSLE2019	Member

12	Ria Kolarao	FSLE2018	Member
13	Yaamini Gupta	FSLE2018	Member
14	Akshita Gupta	FSLE2019	Secretary
15	Saaniya Padaria	FSLE2018	Vice-President
16	Shivika Dudeja	FSLE2018	President

Article VI: Club Plan for the Academic year 2020-21

Online Activities

Online Meetings and Workshops

1. **Damn you, dialogue:** Two writers will collaborate by picking two fictional characters from any book or movie and writing down a conversation about a specific topic (that the members can choose) from the two character's points of view. It has to be written and can be acted out as a play where the audience has to guess the characters! This would improve dialogue writing and speaking skills and would serve as a great icebreaker for the new batch and for all members to get to know and work with one another better.
2. **Another dialogue idea** is to play a video (advertisement that is not well-known) without sound and members would have to imagine and create the character's background, setting, personalities, and the conversation after watching the video. This dialogue could be read out for laughs and everyone can see how well it fits in. This idea is a possible collaboration

with the film club and engaging online activity to facilitate interaction and serve as an ice-breaker.

3. **Idiomicy:** A literary game where members have to incorporate as many idioms as they can/know into conversational dialogue as naturally as possible while trying to make a sensible storyline. The one who has the smoothest flow of narration with the most idioms wins! There would also be a bowl of notes full of idioms that members can use after they have exhausted all that they know. This game is yet another icebreaker and attempt at an engaging bonding activity.
4. **Peer-review week:** In order to help people get out of their comfort zone for writing, we could ask members to write based on themes or prompts we give and tell them to bring their writing to the meeting where we would randomly pair them up and do peer reviews to improve on writing. Each pair can share their final findings on an online call where everybody can discuss their work with each other. This is a simple but effective exercise.
5. **Scrabblement:** As a writing club, a lot of our meetings would be writing intensive. This idea constitutes our members free writing based on a prompt for as long as they can without putting their pen down.
6. **String a Story:** We have had a few meetings based on this idea last year and would like to continue. All members sit in a line or a circle and weave a story together. One person begins writing a story and passes it on to the next person after a certain time limit and it keeps going on. In the end, we read the final story together. This is feasible online, on a zoom call as members can privately text one another or collaborate through google docs. We would have certain guidelines and a moderator to monitor this whole activity online.

7. **The Watch:** We have conducted this activity multiple times in the past two years and would be continuing to do so online. All members gather together on a zoom or gmeet call and watch videos of slam poetry, shayaris, and other storytellers. We discuss each video and hopefully get inspired to write. We would also screen some relevant movies and documentaries like the Dead Poets Society.
8. **Make your own character:** This is a group exercise to help build our creative writing skills. All members would be divided into smaller groups that would discuss and come up with their original character or a new character based on a book or universe. After working on characterization, we would go on to discuss the importance of a plot, a setting, and world-building in books in general. This would give members an insight into weaving stories and hands-on experience as well. We aim to hold other such workshops and creative activities to bring out experimentation styles with writing, writer's block, points of view, different genres, narration, plot, poems, and more.
9. **Collaboration with The Collective:** Together, with the Collective's knowledge and vast reading material we could deconstruct some poetry and pieces of writing by and about the LGBTQIA community and be exposed to the writers and work from the community. This could also serve as an opportunity to see the world from their perspective. This would be held on a fitting date (like pride month or to commemorate the decriminalization of homosexuality in India).
10. **Haiku Workshop:** A student-led workshop where we teach ourselves what haikus are, how to understand and write them and attempt to deconstruct them. This workshop would be facilitated by various audio-visual materials like youtube

videos(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUDuRwKwh8k>) and maybe short crash courses on haikus as well.

11. **Webinars:** These sessions would be in collaboration with authors or other professionals in the field or FLAME faculty. We plan to have interactive discussion-based webinars, lecture-based, and workshop-style webinars. Further details will depend upon the speakers and the topics discussed.
12. **Social Media Presence:** We feature themed monthly specials on our club website to incorporate and advertise writers from the Ellipsis community. Weekly Instagram lives would talk about different topics in a writing club such as authors, narration, plot devices, genres, authors, and poets. We would also discuss hot topics and opinions to become better informed and learn through this online medium.

Online Events

1. **Rewrite History:** This idea could be implemented in terms of a challenge or a competition. Members would rewrite a famous piece of literature (Shakespeare/ Jane Eyre/ Harry Potter/) from a different character's point of view or depict a particular scene or the entire story in a different setting or a different timeline, it could also be written as if one of the most important plot points has changed (eg. writing a scene in Harry Potter after Dumbledore professed his love to McGonagall/ writing Shakespeare in 21st-century slang).
2. **Open Mic:** Our most loved and popular event, formerly known as the Reading Session. This event features performances by both, budding and experienced poets, members and non-members of our club.

3. **Poetry Writing Competition:** The first of its kind (for our club), this competition would focus solely on writing poetry rather than performing it. Participants would be given guidelines pertaining to themes, word limit and a time limit and this would be judged by the writing centre, a faculty member or by an audience poll (where the names of the poets would be hidden to avoid biases).
4. **Storytelling Nights:** This would be like open mics but for short stories instead of poems. People would come and do a reading of their work.
5. **Comedy Night:** This aims to teach students about comedy, the fine line between humor and insults and how to deliver a good screenplay that keeps audiences engaged and roaring. These will be conducted through online workshops or masterclasses. After this, there will be a comedy night where each writer can display their scripts through stand-up comedy.

Activities post lockdown

Offline Weekly Meetings and Workshops

Most of the ideas we have for online weekly meetings could be easily translated into offline meetings. Therefore, if we were to come back to campus we would continue with our above-mentioned plans.

Offline Events

1. **Walk around titles:** Untitled poems would be printed and put up in various places on campus like classrooms or halls/corridors and everyone has to walk around with post-its and pens and try and title the poems as they wish. The real titles would be revealed later along with trivia about the poems and their authors.
2. **Picture poetry/storytelling:** Each participant would have a minute to take five pictures (these could be anything- random people, objects, scenes around them) and send it on our WhatsApp group. After we receive the pictures, they have a certain amount of time to come up with a poem that incorporates all those five pictures somehow, literally or metaphorically. This could also be used for short stories and encourages spontaneous creativity.

We could also use this idea to collaborate with the Photography club and turn it into a competition where members of the Ellipsis and the Photography club are randomly partnered up and participate in pairs. The rules are only explained to the photographers at first, while the writers wait in the dark. The photographers have the freedom to click any amount of pictures they want in a given time limit. They can select the best pictures and send them to their writer partner. Only after the photographers return, do the writers get to know the challenge. Each pair has to come up with the most creative incorporation of the pictures into poems/stories but aren't allowed to communicate with each other. The

pictures cannot change in the middle and the photographer cannot help the writer after they submit the pictures!

3. **Games Night:** This event would be an apt celebration if we were to get back on campus. It would include any and all games like story cubes, scrabble, crosswords, Taboo, Bananagram etc. This would serve as a great bonding activity!
4. **TIFA Excursion:** TIFA is a beautiful retro-themed art space in Pune which regularly organizes events promoting art, music as well as poetry. We plan to take participants from the club who are keen on attending open mics. The events organized at TIFA are on a professional level and we believe it would give a great insight to students who aspire to be the same.
5. **Pune Writathon:** A day-long writing marathon where we visit different places across Pune and just sit and write everywhere while we remain silent throughout to focus on our thought processes.

The club intends to stimulate personal growth by encouraging members to venture beyond their comfort zones and explore themes, genres, writing styles and types of performance poetry they haven't been familiar with. We aim to meticulously prepare and plan in advance to ease our transition into the new normal and drive this club forward. While functioning online poses some obstacles, it's a welcome challenge for the Ellipsis club which is ready to execute the club plan accordingly. This charter is subject to change as per evolving guidelines and regulations.

Article VII: FLAME Support

The Ellipsis Club is proposing FLAME support for the following –

1. Logistical aid to organize our events- This would include printing posters to create awareness about upcoming club meetings and events, equipment like mic, sound system, backdrop, and the FLAME goodie bag.
2. Transport for arranging excursions for the club members and for the invited guests (post lockdown).
3. Refreshments and accommodation for the invited guests.
4. Support from FLAME faculty such as the LCS and Journalism professors and other relevant faculty (with regards to mentoring and conducting workshops).

Article VIII: Expected Budget/Sponsorship-Raising Plans

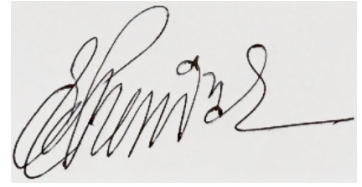
Total	20,000
Online opportunities (Online courses, paid webinars and workshops, literary fests and events)	10,000
Merchandise (EC shirts, stickers etc.)	3,000
Honorarium for professionals	4,000
Contingency Fund	3,000

We, the Executive Committee of the club, have read and clearly understood the terms and conditions of the Club and roles and responsibilities of the various office bearers.



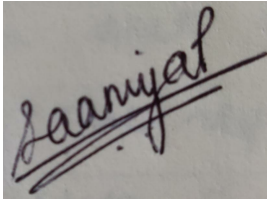
President

(Shivika Dudeja)



Faculty Advisor

(Dwarika Uniyal)



Vice President

(Saaniya Padaria)

Treasurer

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Secretary

(Akshita Gupta)