



Brittany Eldridge

Class of 2016

**Creative Writing Major and
Literature Minor**

By: Tyler Keeton

“Power up your intelligence. Hit that
creativity button.”
— Germany Kent

Brittany Eldridge is currently on track to graduate at the end of the spring 2016 semester. A

passionate creative writer, her time at Western Kentucky University has opened doors for her she never dreamed imaginable. While her biggest passion is writing fiction, Eldridge has recently completed two internships through WKU’s English Department that have expanded her creative boundaries into the world of editing and publishing.

Eldridge received her first internship to write and edit for Dr. Molly McCaffrey’s body positivity website, [*I Will Not Diet*](#), during the 2015 spring semester. Out of her “rigorous, but rewarding” list of projects, Eldridge feels the most important was to write a weekly post that focused on her own battles with body positivity (which can still be found in the site [archives](#)). As someone who considers writing a passion and plans to make it a future career, the internship challenged her to explore new territory in writing. In her own words, Eldridge explains, “It was challenging at times when I wanted to be creative with my writing...when all I needed to do was let the truth be the focal point of the creativity.” She was, at last, face-to-face with the skeletons in her closet. With the eye of

public scrutiny challenging her own battles with acne and being underweight, Eldridge used writing as a means to overcome the beast of insecurity. In describing coming to terms with her own health, she explains: “If you become friends with your body, then giving it what it needs becomes not a chore, but a privilege.” While gaining experience in editing, blogging, and exploring the limitless possibilities of nonfiction writing, she was able to find beauty within herself and in the world of creative writing.

Her second internship, also provided through the department, was with Roy Burkhead, the editor-in-chief of [2nd and Church](#). The literary journal consists of poetry, fiction, book reviews, feature stories, photographs and more. Even more interesting, each edition is reinvented with a new theme (Hemingway, MFA, Fiction and the most recent being a Southern Food Issue). Eldridge was able to publish a book review as well as some personal work on the website. In between writing press releases for new books, authors, and events, she also worked on blog posts for the journal’s website. Eldridge feels the most important aspect of the internship was the networking and work in editing. As an editorial assistant for a [“Southern food issue,”](#) she was able to acquire some hands-on experience in proofreading and editing. The most rewarding moment of the internship was seeing her name in the masthead.

Eldridge plans on searching for a career in publishing or editing, while working on her own creative fiction on the side. Her ultimate goal is to become a successful author, known for her creative storytelling and narrative artistry. She feels that Western Kentucky University has prepared her for life beyond “the hill.”