

Achievement Awards in Writing Advisory Committee

Charge: *The NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators.*

Advisory Committee: To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the NCTE Achievement Awards, including the following issues: development of a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large nonwhite populations; revision of the structure of the award to mitigate the negative effects of competition on student identity and learning; consideration and development of diversified awards: that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multimodal composition (digital or non-digital); and that recognize remarkable risk-taking with the process of writing, instead of the exclusive focus on the final draft; and consideration of revising the Achievement Awards procedure, to eliminate the test-like, single-draft, timed essay as part of the award criteria, since recent developments in high-stakes assessment already privilege those who write quickly; and to consider and make recommendations for ways that the work might interface with NCTE's National Day on Writing.

State Coordinators: To advise the NCTE staff liaison on any changes that should be made in the Achievement Awards program; review judging procedures; recommend judges; recommend ways of publicizing the program; investigate ways of aiding the winners; and give suggestions for the impromptu theme topic.

For information on the Achievement Awards in Writing Program, please go to:
<http://www2.ncte.org/awards/achievement-awards-in-writing>.

Major activities: What major actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in your charge have been completed by your group since July 1, 2017? In each activity describe the more important features of the work, and connect your work to the NCTE Vision Statement, if applicable.

Note: We currently do not have State Coordinators, even though our charge on the NCTE site says we do. These have not existed for the past 5 or so years. They might be reinstated, but the state coordinator roles ceased when the contest became electronic.

1. What actions, projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

- launching the 2019 contest:
 - We are launching the 2019 contest. The committee finished collaborative drafting (and revision, editing) of our themed writing prompt, and this is now prompt is now shared on the NCTE site.
- using social media to engage teachers/students from across the country:
 - We are now working on using social media to promote the contest, with specific goals of engaging students and teachers in all areas of the country--all states. We are targeting, in particular, states that did not have any award winners last year. Based on our contest theme, we are using the hashtag of #humanchorus--along with #aawcontest--on Twitter.
- considering changes to submissions and judging that will best support our mission

2. What have you accomplished so far, and what is your timeline for future work?

- revising judging criteria
- revising page on NCTE site (to provide more information and guidance)
- expanding committee in size and to include more representation from across the country
- planning/ leading a writing session at the 2017 Convention
- analyzing judging data and the judging process
- migration to new judging platform
- increasing use of social media
- writing prompt has been drafted with input from all members

- engaging committee members and other NCTE members in spreading word about the contest through social media
 - July-August 2018: finalize writing prompt (by early August)
 - September-October 2018: launch 2019 contest and use social media to spread the word about the contest
 - November 2018: plan for Convention meeting; review data and plan for continued progress; begin to plan 2020 contest theme; development of new leadership
3. How has the work of your group contributed to NCTE's role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts?

Promoting effective writing instruction and NCTE's writing strand:

- We are collaborating with NCTE to encourage teachers and students to engage in writing as a process--with brainstorming and drafting before revision, editing, and (ultimately) submission. We moved the submissions deadline back last year.
- We are promoting standards for quality writing through our themed writing prompt, through our evaluation criteria, and through information we share about writing.

Dana Maloney, Chair