

# 2009

NCTE PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE  
EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT  
LITERARY MAGAZINES

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## NCTE PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE Excellence in Student Literary Magazines

**Entry deadline June 30, 2009.**

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English has established a Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines in senior high, junior high, and middle schools throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Canada, and American schools abroad. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on its advisory list of national contests and activities for 2008-2009.

The program is intended as a means of recognition for students, teachers, and schools producing excellent literary magazines; as an inducement for improving the quality of such magazines; and as encouragement for all schools to develop literary magazines, seeking

excellence in writing and schoolwide participation in production. Magazines are evaluated and ranked. Critiques of individual magazines are not provided.

NCTE Headquarters will administer the program and work with coordinators in each state. Each State Coordinator will assemble a judging team of a minimum of two judges (in the ratio of two judges per eight magazines submitted). Each entry will be reviewed and scored by two judges working independently. The judges will be English teachers at the middle school, secondary, or college level. Judges will not be permitted to rate magazines from their own schools.



**NOTE: An entry fee of \$25.00 to cover administrative costs is required to enter a magazine.**

## Eligibility

The student literary magazine program is open to all senior high, junior high, and middle schools throughout the United States, Canada, Virgin Islands, and to American schools abroad. Only one entry may be submitted per school. In cases where a school publishes more than one magazine or more than one issue per year, a selection committee should be formed at the school to select the best entry. Two or more schools may not join to submit one entry. Districtwide magazines produced by student staff are eligible if such magazines are developed in a district that **does not** have individual school literary magazines. **Note:** The following types of magazines are *not* eligible: K–elementary magazines and other kinds of publications, e.g., newspapers, yearbooks. Evidence of plagiarism will disqualify a magazine.

## Aspects Evaluated

While literary excellence dominates, production values are important, and the extent of student participation in production is considered. Magazines will be evaluated according to the following criteria (maximum 100 points):

### Literary (80 points total)

#### Content/Quality—50 points

- Imaginative use of language
- Appropriateness of metaphor, imagery, symbol
- Choice of vivid, clear, precise words
- Variety, rhythm, flow of language

#### Content Variety—15 points

- Poetry, fiction, drama
- Essays, reviews, translations, lyrics, writing from across the curriculum, and multi-media presentations

#### Editing, Proofreading—15 points

### Design and Graphics (20 points total)

#### Artistic Quality—15 points

- Layout and typography
- Illustrations and photography
- Use of illustrations and photography to reflect themes

#### Front Matter and Pagination—5 points

- Title page (title, school, city, district, state, date)
- Table of contents
- Staff credits

## Judging and Awards

The initial judging will be based on a point system. The total points awarded the individual entries will determine the entry's placement in one of the categories explained below.

**Neither critiques of individual magazines nor the scoring sheets will be provided to the schools submitting entries.**

Faculty advisors and principals will receive notice of ranked magazines by mail in January. Judging results are posted on the NCTE website at <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/preslm>.

### **Superior (100–91 points)**

Outstanding writing; wide variety of genres (at least 5) represented; meticulous editing; unifying design; high-quality graphics; coherence of theme and design; clear evidence of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary involvement with writings from other subject areas; students dominate editorial, production, and business aspects.

### **Excellent (90–81 points)**

High quality of writing; variety of genres (at least 4) represented; strong editing; some writings from other subject areas; design and graphics attractive, pertinent to writings; students have strong roles in editorial, production, and business aspects.

### **Above Average (80–71 points)**

Sound writing; includes at least three genres, and one or two pieces from other subject areas; good editing, but noticeable errors; design and layout adequate but inconsistent; students' participation in editorial, production, and business aspects weak.

### **Unranked (70 or fewer points)**

Lack of sufficient quality in areas noted above and on the scoring sheet to warrant inclusion in the program in a given year.

### **HIGHEST AWARD**

This special award recognizes magazines that fulfill extraordinary standards of excellence. In such magazines, students handle virtually all aspects of writing, production, and business with exceptional skill. The magazine is characterized by a variety of genres including print and multi-media presentations; highly original and technically outstanding writing; high-quality design with fonts and graphics that complement the theme and tone; inclusion of high-quality writings from various disciplines; and other evidence that schoolwide participation has gone into the development of the magazine. *This award, selected from the magazines rated superior in all areas by judges, might be given to several magazines in a particular year, or to none.*

## To Enter a Magazine

Magazines submitted must have been published between September of the previous year and July of the entry year.

To enter a magazine, follow these steps:

1. Complete the entry form—**type or print** the information.
2. Mail entry form and fee to: PRES LM, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096.
3. Send 3 copies of the entry form (block out credit card information) and 3 copies of your literary magazine to your State Coordinator by **June 30**. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you want to be notified that your entry was received.
4. State Coordinators will be posted on NCTE's website at <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/PRES LM> in April.

## Queries

Contact: PRES LM, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096. email: [PRES LM@ncte.org](mailto:PRES LM@ncte.org); Fax: 217-328-0977; Phone: 217-278-3608 or 1-800-369-6283 ext. 3608.

**NOTE: Do not send magazines to NCTE.**



## Production Information

Estimate the percentage of work done by students, faculty advisors, and outside professionals in each of the areas listed.

	Students	Faculty	Outside	Total
Writing	_____	_____	_____	100%
Editing	_____	_____	_____	100%
Proofreading	_____	_____	_____	100%
Design/Layout	_____	_____	_____	100%
Art	_____	_____	_____	100%
Photography	_____	_____	_____	100%
Pasteup	_____	_____	_____	100%
Printing	_____	_____	_____	100%

## Funding Information

Source:	Percentage (estimate)
Project funds (federal, state, PTA, etc.)	_____
School budget	_____
District budget	_____
Community (ads, donations)	_____
Sales of past issues	_____
Advance sales	_____
Fund-raising activities	_____
Other (name them) _____	_____
_____	
_____	
Total	100%

Unit cost of magazine per issue	_____
Selling price per issue to students	_____
Percentage of expenses recovered through sales	_____

## Faculty Advisor's Comments (optional)

You may, if you wish, comment briefly here on special aspects of your magazine, your students, or aspects of production that might be of interest to the judges. (Maximum 200 words)