

2013

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing For High School Juniors

Deadline to complete entry form and upload papers: February 13, 2013

Achievement Awards in Writing is a school-based writing program established in 1957 to encourage high school students in their writing and to recognize publicly some of the best student writers in the nation. The National Council of Teachers of English will recognize students who are cited as excellent writers by judges.

Eligibility

Juniors in the present academic year may be nominated for 2013 awards. High school juniors from public, private, and parochial schools in the United States, Canada, Virgin Islands, and American schools abroad are eligible. Home-schooled students may submit through a cooperating school.

Selection of Nominees

Each high school selects its own nominees: one or more juniors agreed upon by the English department, not chosen by an individual teacher. In selecting writers, teachers should consider whether the writer exhibits power to inform and move an audience through control of a wide range of the English language.

Number of Nominees

The number of students allowed from each school is determined by the current total enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12. The enrollment figure used must be an official one from administrative reports of the current year and must not include ninth-grade students.

Under 500 students 1 nominee
500–999 students 2 nominees
1,000–1,499 students 3 nominees
1,500–1,999 students 4 nominees
2,000–2,499 students 5 nominees
2,500–2,999 students 6 nominees
3,000–3,999 students 7 nominees
4,000 or more students 8 nominees

Procedures for Entering

Select one teacher to represent your school and enter student submissions. This teacher should complete one entry form per student and upload that student's papers as ONE FILE that is a maximum of 10 double-spaced pages. Please note that entrants must have a parent or guardian's permission to enter. **See online instructions at www.ncte.org/awards/student/aa. Entries will be accepted online from November 30, 2012 – February 13, 2013, Noon CST.**

Entries:

Two written submissions (best and themed) by each student is required. Both writings should go through a process of drafting and revision. **The themed writing must be in prose;** the best writing may be in any genre or combination of genres (poetry, narrative, argument, expository). As soon as students are nominated, they may begin work on their writing.

1. **Best writing** — one sample that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of the number of revisions. The best writing must not exceed six (6) typed, double-spaced pages. Research papers, term papers, and novels will not be accepted.
2. **Themed writing** — Theme must not exceed four (4) typed, double-spaced pages. The topic, developed by the Achievement Awards Advisory Committee, is a common topic on which all students must write.

Directions for Both Best and Themed Writing

- a. Use legible type (no smaller than 11 or 12 point).
- b. Double-space (except for poetry).
- c. Margins are to be 1" on all sides (except for poetry).
- d. Page number should be in the upper right-hand corner.
- e. The student's name and "Best" or "Theme" must appear in the upper left-hand corner of each page.
- f. School name can *not* appear on the paper or within the body of writing.
- g. Maximum length for the theme is four (4) pages. Maximum length for the best writing is six (6) pages. An excerpt from a larger piece is acceptable with a paragraph explaining the piece from which the excerpt was taken.

2013 Theme: "Personal Mount Rushmore"

In the 1930s historian Doane Robinson conceived a monument that would celebrate American history and attract tourists to South Dakota's Black Hills. By 1939 the 60-foot-high busts of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln were carved into the granite at Mount Rushmore.

The monument tells us something important about its creators. Mount Rushmore celebrates Teddy Roosevelt's establishment of the National Park system, Washington's leadership as first president, Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase, and Lincoln's preservation of the Union.

Imagine you have been asked to choose four figures for your own personal Mount Rushmore. Instead of national ideals, these figures would represent your personal ideals. What qualities would you want to preserve and celebrate?

You can choose any four figures. Perhaps you would choose an artist, a writer, celebrity, spiritual leader, sports hero, or an important friend or family member. Which four figures would represent your ideals? What would these choices tell us about who you are? Use evidence from your reading, observations, and/or experiences to support your proposal. If you use information from an outside source, make sure it is valid and that you document it correctly.

Judging

Teams of teachers at the national level will judge the writing and select the top entries. Best and themed writings are judged as a whole on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style.

Awards

Results announced in May 2013. Students selected for superior performance are awarded a letter and certificate from NCTE which is provided to the nominating teacher to present to the student. Additionally, their names are posted on NCTE's website along with their school's name, nominating teacher, city, and state.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2012–2013.



Program information may be found at www.ncte.org/awards/student/aa.

Email questions to: aa@ncte.org

NCTE National Council of
Teachers of English

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