

2012

NCTE Achievement Awards in Writing For High School Juniors

Deadline to complete entry form and upload papers: February 15, 2012

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 2012 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

NOTE: Teachers may nominate an equal (additional) number of entrants who are English Language Learners (ELL).

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 http://center.uoregon.edu/conferences/NCTE/FORMS/CFP/cfp_login.php?formid=463594. Entries will be accepted online from November 30, 2011 – February 15, 2012, 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.

2012 Theme: "Your World"

We are all from somewhere or of a particular community, shaped by the people and places in our lives. Give the reader a virtual experience of your world. As you do this, let us hear your voice. Share the thoughts, feelings, questions and concerns that arise out of the world around you. Bring your space – your town, your school, your home, your room, your web – to life for your reader. You may wish to specifically identify your audience. Finally, consider the significance of this world you have presented.

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.

Electronic publication in the National Gallery of Writing

Students participating in the 2012 Achievement Awards Program are invited to submit their writing to the National Gallery of Writing <http://www.galleryof-writing.org>. NCTE has a special gallery for Achievement Award participants.

Awards

Results announced in early May 2012. Students selected for superior performance in writing receive a letter and certificate of commendation from NCTE. Certificates are sent to the nominating teacher at the student's high school. Additionally, winners' names are posted on NCTE's website along with the school name, teacher name, 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 2011–2012.



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

Contact NCTE by phone: 1-800-369-6283, ext. 3608

Email questions to: aa@ncte.org

NCTE National Council of
Teachers of English

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