



NCTE PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

For Eighth-Grade Students

The Promising Young Writers program represents NCTE's commitment to early and continuing work in the development of writing. The school-based writing program was established in 1985 to stimulate and recognize students' writing talents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students.

Eighth-grade students who have been nominated by their schools in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Schools Abroad, Canada, and the Virgin Islands may participate in the program. Students who submit papers will receive either a Certificate of Recognition or a Certificate of Participation to recognize their efforts.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the [NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities](#).

NOTE: An entry fee of \$5.00 per student is required to help cover administrative costs.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Deviation from these rules and procedures may disqualify a student's entry.

Eligibility

Eighth grade students in the present academic school year are eligible to be nominated for the Promising Young Writers program.

Number of Nominees

The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the eighth-grade average daily enrollment. Use the following guide:

Average Daily Enrollment	
Under 100	1 nominee
100–199	2 nominees
200–299	3 nominees
300–399	4 nominees
400–499	5 nominees
500 or more	6 nominees

Selection of Nominees

All nominees must demonstrate evidence of effective writing. Each school selects its own nominee or nominees: one or more eighth graders (based on number allowed as explained above) agreed upon by school committee or department. It is strongly recommended that nominees not be selected by an individual teacher. Home-schooled students may submit through a cooperating school.

Procedures for Entering

- Complete **one nomination form for each student** (attached form may be photocopied). **Select one teacher to represent your school.** Therefore, one form per student and one nominating teacher per school.
- Mail one completed nomination form and a \$5.00 entry fee for each student nominated (make check in U.S. funds payable to NCTE or use credit card).**

Send entry form(s) and check or credit card information to:

**Promising Young Writers
NCTE
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801-1096**

- For each nominee, mail the following writing samples to your current State Coordinator.**
 - Three** sets of papers with one copy of the Best Writing Sample stapled to one copy of the Impromptu Writing for each student.
 - One** copy of the completed nomination form for each student.

NOTE: NCTE receives the entry form and payment. State Coordinator receives all student papers and a copy of the entry form for each student.

Entries

Two written compositions by each nominated student are required.

- 1. BEST WRITING SAMPLE** A sample of writing (prose and/or verse) that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of amount of revision. Research papers, term papers, or novels **will not** be accepted by state coordinators.

Directions for Best Writing Sample

- Printed from a computer in legible black type (no smaller than 12 point) or handwritten using dark ink
 - Double-spaced (except for poetry)
 - Margins are 1" on all sides (except for poetry)
 - Page number is in the upper right-hand corner (ten page maximum and no minimum)
 - Printed on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch paper
 - Student's name and "Best" appear in the upper left-hand corner of each page
 - School name does *not* appear on the papers or within the body of writing
 - Best Writing may include prose and/or poetry
- 2. IMPROMPTU WRITING** The impromptu topic, developed by the Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee, is a common topic on which all students entering the program must write. At a designated time, the teacher should give the topic to the nominees with instructions for writing. The topic must not be given to the student beforehand, and the student must not be coached or aided in any way in developing the topic.

Judging

Teams of teachers at the state level will judge the writing and select Promising Young Writers. Papers will be judged on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style. Judges take into account that the writers are eighth-grade students, not professional writers, and that the impromptu papers are written under time constraints.

The number of winners in each state may not exceed the number of that state's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The District of Columbia, Virgin Islands, and American Schools Abroad are limited to two winners each. Canada is limited to four winners.

Awards

Each student who enters and writes will receive a citation. Certificates of Recognition will be awarded to students cited as winners. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to other nominees who write. All certificates will be mailed to school principals, who will be asked to present them to each student who submitted writing samples. Nominating teachers will also be notified. Additionally, winners' names are posted on NCTE's website along with the school name, city, and state.

Optional Permission for Future Use of Student Papers

In some cases, NCTE or its Affiliates may wish to use student papers for research purposes, to publish them in print or electronic publications, or to otherwise display them. Students who desire to have their papers considered for such use or publication must have a parent (or legal guardian) sign the nomination form. If permission is granted, use of a student's paper is at NCTE's and its Affiliates' discretion.

Lack of parental signature will not prevent a student from participating in this program or from being designated a winner.

For Information on This Year's Program

If you are a teacher interested in having your students participate in this program, see the latest information at www.ncte.org/about/awards/student/pyw or contact NCTE at

■ Phone: 1-800-369-6283, ext. 3608 ■ Fax: 217-278-3761 ■ email: pyw@ncte.org

