

Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee

Charge: The NCTE [Promising Young Writers](#) program makes use of an advisory committee and state coordinators. Their charges are as follows:

Promising Young Writers Committee: To advise staff on the nature, policies, and procedures regarding the NCTE Promising Young Writer Awards, including the following issues: to develop a specific plan for involving more public schools in the awards, especially those with large non-white populations.

To prepare a written set of recommendations for the Executive Committee regarding the following: 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 development of English Language Learners in writing in their first language as well as English composition; that recognize remarkable improvement or growth in writing; that recognize multi-modal 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.

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 Promising Young Writers program; to review judging procedures; to recommend judges; to recommend ways to publicize the program; to coordinate judging of papers within the state; to help disseminate information about the winners; and to suggest topics for the impromptu theme.

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group since July 1, 2008?

1. We received word in August 2008 that the NCTE Executive Committee approved changes we had recommended during the previous year: (1) changing the timed-writing prompt to a theme-driven piece of writing that is untimed, and (2) moving the deadline for submission from mid-January to the second week of February.
2. Leah Zuidema was named Chair for the 2009-2011 term.
3. Members/guests in attendance at the NCTE meeting November 22, 2008 include Sarah Woodard, Shannon Collins, Kilian McCurrie, Bobby Purcell, Carol Blauvelt, and Kia Jane Richmond (outgoing chair).

What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?

1. We have recommended an electronic submissions process for entries and are hopeful that it will be in place for the 2010 contest.
2. We recommend that the NCTE web site reorganize to have one site for "NCTE Writing Awards" so that both PYW (8th grade) and Achievement award (11th grade) - winners/participants would be listed there.
3. We recommend that PYW and Achievement Awards jointly create [NCTE Writing Awards Gallery](#) to post writing from PYW (8th grade) and Achievement Awards (11th grade), making sure to post samples only from those who have given permission to publish.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field: Multimodal Literacy and Technology, Research and Teaching, English Language Learners, Professional Development, Closing the Achievement Gap, Reading Research, 21st Century Literacies,

Meeting the Needs of Audiences Currently Unserved/Underserved by NCTE, Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators, and International Involvement, "Global English", and NCTE. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

Leah Zuidema, Chair