

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.

For information on the Promising Young Writers Program, [click here](#).

What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2009?

1. In light of NCTE's decision to move the submissions and judging processes online, the committee engaged in a comprehensive review of all aspects of the Promising Young Writers (PYW) program. We recommended 12 major changes related to nominations, entries, judging and recommendation. These changes include special attention to how the program might encourage participation from English Language Learners.

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

1. We are enthusiastic about NCTE's decision to move the PYW program online and await news about the ways in which the Council will act on the recommendations we submitted in May 2011.
2. When we receive news about the implementation of the online program, we will be able to develop the prompt for the thematic writing for the 2012 program.

Strategic Governance: Over the past few years, the NCTE Executive Committee has established outcomes and priorities relating to these key topics in our field [Closing the Achievement Gap](#), [NCTE and International Involvement](#), [Reading Research](#), [21st Century Literacies](#), and [Attracting, Supporting, and Advancing Early Career Educators](#). Currently, they are working on performance assessment of teachers and student learning. Does your group have research findings or suggestions to contribute that are relevant to on-going work on these strategic governance topics?

- We urge the Council to adopt our recommendations for piloting PYW entries in new-media composing. It is the committee's view that this step would enact NCTE views on 21st Century Literacies.

Leah Zuidema, Chair