



Media Advisory

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Narrowing the Literacy Gap by Reading Literature *and* Writing about It

Urbana, IL, April 29, 2009 — Our students—from kindergarten through college—deserve a curriculum that prepares them for the real world. So says [***Crash! The Currency Crisis in American Culture***](#), a perspective by Carol Jago, President-Elect of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

The perspective argues passionately for not only reading powerful and sophisticated literature in school but also for writing about it. *Crash!* emphasizes that students can develop their analytical skills and their ability to think critically by looking closely at what they read and expressing clearly and powerfully what they find there.

“Writing about literature disciplines the mind. . . It requires deep reading and analytical thinking—skills that will serve students well whatever their futures may hold,” notes Jago.

In conjunction with the release of Jago’s perspective, NCTE has begun accepting submissions from citizens across the country to the [National Gallery of Writing](#). NCTE is also making it possible for smaller groups to establish Local Partner Galleries to showcase writing. The Gallery, which is a digital archive celebrating composition in all its forms, invites submissions from the young and old from all walks of life—babysitters, kindergarten artists, lawyers, bloggers, hospitality workers, truckers, nurses, fire fighters, and more.

To showcase the remarkable variety of writing that will be collected in the Gallery, NCTE will open the collection to the public on **October 20, 2009**, the [National Day on Writing](#). NCTE is currently working with legislators on Congressional resolutions to officially declare October 20 the National Day on Writing.

“By capturing a portrait of how writing happens today—who writes and for what purposes,” NCTE Executive Director Kent Williamson notes, “teachers can better prepare the next generation for success across the full range of 21st century literacies. Our hope is that everyone who participates in this initiative will better understand writing as a valuable lifelong practice rather than as something that is done only in school or only by a select group of people.”

The National Council of Teachers of English, with 50,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit the [NCTE website](#).

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