



National Council of Teachers of English
 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096
www.ncte.org

2005

Achievement Awards in Writing

For High School Juniors

Deadline: January 28, 2005.

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 give achievement awards in writing to students nominated and cited as excellent writers by judges. Nominees must be students who will graduate from high school in 2006. This marks the forty-eighth consecutive year that NCTE has sponsored the Achievement Awards. The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed the program on its NASSP National Advisory List of Contests and Activities for 2004–2005.

Copies of this brochure and nomination form have been sent to over 4,000 teachers who nominated students in the past. Additional forms may be obtained from NCTE (see www.ncte.org/about/awards/student), or photocopies may be used.

Nature of the Awards

A maximum of 876 awards is possible; the awards are announced in October when student nominees have entered their senior year in high school. Recipients of awards and the English departments from which they were nominated receive certificates of commendation from the National Council of Teachers of English. These certificates are sent to the high school principals of the winners.

Because NCTE is a not-for-profit educational association, it has no funds to award scholarships to winners. Winners names are printed in a booklet and posted on NCTE's Web site along with the school name, city, and state. Students also receive postcards recognizing their outstanding performance in writing to include with their college applications. Booklets are sent to the winners and their high school principals.

Each state is allowed at least two winners; the specific number is proportionate to the state's population. In addition to the fifty states, the District of Columbia is allowed four winners. Canadian schools, American schools abroad, and the Virgin Islands make up a separate category entitled to two winners.

Eligibility

Only students who are JUNIORS in the academic year of 2004–2005 may be nominated for 2005 awards; they must be candidates for high school graduation in 2006. This stipulation is made so that the information on the winners may reach colleges in time for students to be considered for admission and scholarships in 2006. High school juniors from public, private, and parochial schools in the United States and Canada, as well as from American schools abroad and the Virgin Islands, are eligible.

Number of Nominees

The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the current total enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12:

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

The enrollment figure used must be an official one from administrative reports of the current year and must not include ninth-grade students.

Nomination Procedures

Each high school selects its own nominee or nominees: one or more juniors agreed upon by the English department, not chosen by an individual teacher. One method of selection is to form a committee of high school students and teachers to act as judges in a local preliminary contest to select the best junior writer or writers to represent the school in the NCTE Achievement Awards.

In selecting these young writers, teachers may want to consider the following guidelines: Does the student show depth of thought in the quality and presentation of ideas? Even if the thought is relatively commonplace, has the student made the idea his or her own? Is the student clear about subject and audience? Does the student demonstrate a command of vocabulary and sentence structure? Perhaps the comprehensive question is whether or not the writer exhibits power to inform and move an audience through control of a wide range of the English language. This may, but does not necessarily, imply excellence in what is usually called "creative" writing, and the judging committees may be as favorably impressed by an expository article as by a poem. A prospective nominee need not express a desire to major in English.



A current official nomination form for each nominee must be submitted to NCTE, postmarked no later than January 28, 2005. **Only one student may be nominated on each form. No substitutions will be accepted after the January 28 deadline.** All nomination forms from a school should be mailed to NCTE **in the same envelope**, and **only one teacher** should be designated to receive the follow-up instructions in March. **All information requested on the nomination blank must be provided.**

Entries: Two Written Compositions

1. A sample of writing (prose **and/or** verse) that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of amount of revision. The "best writing" must not exceed ten typed, double-spaced pages. Research papers, term papers, or novels **will not** be accepted by state coordinators. Unlike the impromptu theme, the sample of best writing does not depend on information from NCTE. As soon as a student is nominated, therefore, he or she may begin work on the sample of best writing.
2. An impromptu theme written under teacher supervision in no more than 2 hours. The topic is designated by NCTE.
3. Students may use computers, typewriters, or black ink to write the impromptu topic. Please send only hard copy. Do not send disks.

Nominees must submit both entries. The impromptu theme topic, along with further instructions, is sent in March to the teacher designated on the nomination blank. **If the topic is not received by April 1, contact NCTE Achievement Awards.** Both entries must be submitted to the state coordinator in one package, postmarked no later than April 21, 2005. Names and addresses of state coordinators are included in the instructions sent in March.

No entries are returned. Teachers or students should make copies of the compositions before submitting the originals. No publication of a student's work will be made without his or her parents' written permission.

Judging of Entries

Teams of judges from the nominee's state, consisting of both high school and college English teachers, evaluate the entries for content and form. Each piece of writing is read by two judges. A state coordinator organizes the network of judges in each state and reports the results to NCTE.

2005 Schedule and Deadlines

January 28

Deadline for schools to return nomination forms to NCTE, one form for each nominee. **Only nomination forms are to be submitted at this time, no compositions.** Nomination forms postmarked after January 28, 2005, may be disqualified.

March

NCTE mails the impromptu theme topic and further instructions to the teachers specified on the nomination forms.

April 21

Deadline for teachers to mail nominees' impromptu themes and samples of best writing to their state coordinators. Both compositions are to be sent in one package. These materials are **not** to be sent to NCTE. Names and addresses of state coordinators are included with the instructions sent to teachers in March.

August 1

State coordinators report results to NCTE.

October

NCTE announces the award recipients. Winners, their high school English departments, and their principals are notified by mail. Nominees who are not award winners are sent letters acknowledging their participation in the program.

Queries

See www.ncte.org/about/awards/student or contact: Marcia Loeschen, Achievement Awards, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096. E-mail: mloeschen@ncte.org; Fax: 217-278-3761; Phone: 217-278-3608 or 1-800-369-6283, ext. 3608.

Optional Permission for Future Use of Student Papers

In some cases, NCTE or its affiliates may wish to use student papers for research purposes or to reprint in other publications. A student certifies by signing that the writing submitted is solely his or her own except where otherwise noted. Students who desire to have their papers considered for use must also have their parent (or legal guardian) sign the nomination form. If permission is granted, use of a student's paper is at NCTE's discretion.

Lack of parental signature will not prevent a student from participating in the Achievement Awards in Writing program or from being designated a winner.



Nomination Form

DEADLINE: January 28, 2005

Achievement Awards in Writing, 2005

Please read and follow these directions carefully:

1. Nominees must be JUNIORS in the present school year.
2. **Complete a Nomination Form for each nominee; one student per form; one nominating teacher per school. This form may be photocopied.** If your school submits more than one nomination, staple all forms together, return **in the same envelope**, and designate **only one teacher** to receive the impromptu theme topic and other instructions. Please use the same teacher's name on each form.
3. The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the current total enrollment in grades 10, 11, and 12. See the chart on page 1.
4. Impromptu theme topic and further instructions are mailed in March. **If your school has not received the materials by April 1, contact the NCTE office promptly.**
5. Full program details are given in the brochure. Strict adherence to program procedures is necessary. Failure to comply may result in the disqualification of a nominee.
6. **Teachers are advised to keep a completed copy of this form, including date mailed.**
7. **No student papers are returned. Teachers are advised to keep copies of student papers, including date mailed.**
8. **Nominations postmarked after January 28 are subject to disqualification. No substitutions will be accepted after the deadline.** If you wish acknowledgment from NCTE of the receipt of your nominations, please include a stamped, self-addressed postcard or use certified mail.
9. Mail completed forms to:
Achievement Awards in Writing
NCTE
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, Illinois 61801-1096

Please type or print the information requested below.

Form(s) cannot be processed unless each line is completed. Parental consent line optional. One student per form.

High school _____ School telephone (_____) _____
(area code)

Address _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Principal _____

Nominating teacher (person to whom instructions are to be mailed) _____

E-mail _____

Total number of nominees _____ Number entitled _____ Total enrollment (grades 10, 11, 12) _____

Student nominee _____
(last name) (first)

Student's home address _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Signature of student (certifies writing as student's own) _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian (grants NCTE permission to use paper) _____

Signature of nominating teacher _____

Signature of principal _____