



# THE MUHAMMAD ALI AWARD FOR WRITING ON ETHICS

*“All I did was stand up for what I believed.”*

—Muhammad Ali

Photo: John Lair

## ■ ETHICS

To live an ethical life requires not only tremendous personal courage and conviction but also an incredibly high ethical standard. The National Council of Teachers of English is proud to partner with the Muhammad Ali Center and the Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony to offer an award for college students that honors Muhammad Ali's legacy of living a life dedicated to high ethical standards.

We are seeking submissions that address relevant ethical topics of this generation. As you identify an ethical issue to address for the purposes of this competition, consider Muhammad Ali's accomplishments and values and how these values address the topic you have chosen. (Visit [www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org) for more information regarding Ali's values.)

## ■ PRIZES

One winner will be selected to receive the following:

- \$10,000 cash prize
- A week-long writing workshop at the Mailer Center in Provincetown, Massachusetts, during the summer of 2013
- Recognition by the Muhammad Ali Center and the Norman Mailer Center at the Norman Mailer Center's Annual Gala on October 4, 2012
- Travel, lodging, and gala tickets for the winner, courtesy of the Muhammad Ali Center\*

## ■ JUDGING CRITERIA

Submissions will be read by national panels of teachers and writers. They will be judged on how well they demonstrate the following in relation to an ethical issue: understanding; original thinking and insight; effectiveness in presenting a point of view; achieving an overall emotional or intellectual effect. For full judging criteria, please visit: <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/ali>.

## ■ SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Entries can focus on any aspect of ethics—from ethics across cultures to personal, medical, or business ethics, and more. Writers can choose to explore ethical issues surrounding military policy, cultural differences, public policy, or any other subject they feel is ethically relevant.

Writers are encouraged to think broadly about the issue of ethics and how it applies to the larger world. For this contest writers should consider “Ethics” as the “discipline dealing with what is good and bad and with moral duty and obligation,” or as a study “dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and ends of such actions.” The contest is not looking for formal philosophical statements, but essays that draw the reader into thoughtful considerations of how people approach current ethical issues. Sample topics might include the following: the ethics of holding detainees in Guantanamo Bay; the ethics of firing drones away from an active battlefield; the ethics of being an international company attempting to impose Western values regarding women in Middle Eastern countries; the ethics of funding prisoners' rights programs while defunding initiatives in public schools; and the ethics of food justice (we all have a right to food—access and availability).

The competition is open to full-time undergraduate students and to first- and second-year full-time students enrolled in community, junior, and technical colleges. Entries should be a maximum of 10 single-spaced pages and no more than 5,000 words. **Deadline for submissions is July 23, 2012, Noon CDT.** To enter, visit <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/ali>.

\*Funding for travel to the Annual Gala for the award winner is limited to coach airfare within the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Teachers who live outside the US but work in American-accredited schools are eligible to enter. If the winner lives outside of the US, a \$500 USD payment toward travel will be allowed. Hotel/lodging at the awards event will be covered.

Muhammad Ali Award for Writing on Ethics co-sponsored by

The National Council of Teachers of English:

NCTE is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all scholastic levels.

**NCTE** National Council of  
Teachers of English

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The mission of the *Muhammad Ali Center* is to preserve and share the legacy and ideals of Muhammad Ali; to promote respect, hope and understanding; and to inspire adults and children everywhere to be as great as they can be.

[www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org) • 502-584-9254

The Norman Mailer Center and Writers Colony:

The Center is an educational nonprofit dedicated to supporting and celebrating writers who challenge the status quo and surprise their audiences. The Center promotes a vision of the writer as a voice in public debate.

THE NORMAN MAILER CENTER

And The Norman Mailer Writers Colony

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