

2016

NCTE PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE Excellence in Student Literary Magazines

Entry deadline July 1, 2016.

The Executive Committee of the National Council of Teachers of English has established a Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines in senior high, junior high, and middle schools throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Canada, and American schools abroad.

The program is intended as a means of recognition for students, teachers, and schools producing excellent literary magazines; as an inducement for improving the quality of such magazines; and as encouragement for all schools to develop literary magazines, seeking excellence in writing and schoolwide participation in production. Magazines are evaluated and ranked. Critiques of individual magazines are not provided.

NCTE Headquarters will administer the program and work with coordinators in each state. Each State Coordinator will assemble a judging team of a minimum of two judges (in the ratio of two judges per eight magazines submitted). Each entry will be reviewed and scored by two judges working independently. The judges will be English teachers at the middle school, secondary, or college level. Judges will not be permitted to rate magazines from their own schools. Ratings by state judges are subject to review by PRESLM's Advisory Committee, which also makes final selection of the program's Highest Award winners.

Eligibility

The student literary magazine program is open to all secondary schools throughout the United States, Canada, Virgin Islands, and to American schools abroad. If a school publishes multiple issues of its magazine, only one issue may be submitted to PRESLM. Two or more schools may not join to submit one entry. Districtwide magazines produced by student staff are eligible if such magazines are developed in a district that **does not** have individual school literary magazines. **Note:** The following types of magazines are *not* eligible: K–elementary magazines and other kinds of publications, e.g., newspapers, yearbooks. Evidence of plagiarism will disqualify a magazine.

NOTE: An entry fee of \$25.00 to cover administrative costs is required to enter a magazine.

To Enter a Magazine

Magazines submitted must have been published between September of the previous year and July of the entry year. To enter a magazine, follow these steps:

1. Complete the entry form—**type or print** the information.
2. Mail entry form and entry fee to: PRES LM, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096.
3. Do not send magazine to NCTE.
4. Send 3 copies of the entry form (block out credit card information) and 3 copies of your literary magazine to your State Coordinator by **July 1**. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard if you want to be notified that your entry was received.
5. State Coordinators will be posted on NCTE's website at <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/preslm> in April.

Queries

Contact: PRES LM, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096. email: PRES LM@ncte.org.

Aspects Evaluated

While literary excellence dominates, production values are important, and the extent of student participation in production is considered. Magazines will be evaluated according to the following criteria (maximum 100 points):

Literary Content/Quality—50 points

- Originality, variety, strength of ideas and themes
- Effective language—clarity, precision, expressiveness, sophistication, rhythm, musicality
- Masterful use of literary devices (e.g., metaphor, image, symbol), exploration of genres (drama, wit, fantasy, thought) and literary forms (varieties of verse, prose narrative, dialogue, essay) to express themes

Rhetorical Variety—15 points

- Poetry; narrative fiction; dramatic dialogue; personal essay; nonfiction writing-from-across-the-curriculum; transitions; multi-media presentations (e.g., music and film)

Editing, Proofreading — 15 points

Design, Graphics, Production — 20 points

- Overall artistic quality
- Effective use of art and design to complement writing
- Effective layout and typography
- Legible and informative front matter (e.g., Table of Contents)
- Title page (title, school, city, district, state, date)
- Staff credits; contact information

Judging and Awards

The initial judging will be based on a point system. The total points awarded the individual entries will determine the entry's placement in one of the categories explained below.

Neither critiques of individual magazines nor the scoring sheets will be provided to the schools submitting entries.

Results of ranked magazines will be available in January. Judging results are posted on the NCTE website at <http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/preslm>.

Superior (100–91 points)

Outstanding writing; wide variety of genres (at least five) represented; meticulous editing; unifying design; high-quality graphics; coherence of theme and design; clear evidence of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary involvement with writings from other subject areas; students dominate editorial, production, and business aspects.

Excellent (90–81 points)

High quality of writing; variety of genres (at least four) represented; strong editing; some writings from other subject areas; design and graphics attractive, pertinent to writings; students have strong roles in editorial, production, and business aspects.

Above Average (80–71 points)

Sound writing; includes at least three genres, and one or two pieces from other subject areas; good editing, but noticeable errors; design and layout adequate but inconsistent; students' participation in editorial, production, and business aspects weak.

Unranked (70 or fewer points)

Lack of sufficient quality in areas noted above and on the scoring sheet to warrant inclusion in the program in a given year.

Recommended for Highest Award

Recognizes magazines that fulfill extraordinary standards of excellence. In such magazines, students handle virtually all aspects of writing, production, and business with exceptional skill. The magazine is characterized by a variety of genres including print and could include multi-media presentations; highly original art and graphics as well as outstanding writing; high-quality design with fonts and graphics that complement the theme and tone; inclusion of high-quality writings from various disciplines; and other evidence that schoolwide participation has gone into the development of the magazine.

HIGHEST AWARD

Selected from the magazines rated superior in all areas by judges, might be given to several magazines in a particular year, or to none.

Production Information

Estimate the percentage of work done by students, faculty advisors, and outside professionals in each of the areas listed.

	Students	Faculty	Outside	Total
Writing	_____	_____	_____	100%
Editing	_____	_____	_____	100%
Proofreading	_____	_____	_____	100%
Graphic Design/Layout	_____	_____	_____	100%
Art	_____	_____	_____	100%
Photography	_____	_____	_____	100%
Desktop Publishing	_____	_____	_____	100%
Printing	_____	_____	_____	100%
CD/DVD/Website (optional)	_____	_____	_____	100%

Funding Information

Source:

Percentage
(estimate)

Project funds (federal, state, PTA, etc.)	_____
School budget	_____
District budget	_____
Community (ads, donations)	_____
Sales of past issues	_____
Advance sales	_____
Fund-raising activities	_____
Kind/Donated services	_____
Other (name them) _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total 100%

Unit cost of magazine per issue _____

Selling price per issue to students _____

Percentage of expenses recovered through sales _____

Faculty Advisor's Comments (optional)

You may, if you wish, comment briefly here on special aspects of your magazine, your students, or aspects of production that might be of interest to the judges. (Maximum 200 words)