NCTE Promising Young Writers

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Deviation from these rules and procedures may disqualify a student's entry.

Eligibility

Eighth grade students in the present academic school year are eligible to be nominated for the Promising Young Writers program.

Number of Nominees

The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the eighth-grade average daily enrollment. Use the following guide:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average Daily Enrollment</th>
<th>Nominees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 100</td>
<td>1 nominee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100–199</td>
<td>2 nominees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200–299</td>
<td>3 nominees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300–399</td>
<td>4 nominees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400–499</td>
<td>5 nominees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 or more</td>
<td>6 nominees</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Selection of Nominees

All nominees must demonstrate evidence of effective writing. Each school selects its own nominee or nominees: one or more eighth graders (based on number allowed as explained above) agreed upon by school committee or department. It is strongly recommended that nominees not be selected by an individual teacher. Home-schooled students may submit through a cooperating school.

Students will submit two pieces each; one writing theme-based and one "Best" writing or an excerpt from a "best" piece.

Procedures for Entering

a. Complete one nomination form for each student (attached form may be photocopied). Select one teacher to represent your school. Therefore, one form per student and one nominating teacher per school.

b. Mail one completed nomination form and a $5.00 entry fee for each student nominated (make check in U.S. funds payable to NCTE or use credit card).

Promising Young Writers
NCTE
1111 W. Kenyon Road
Urbana, IL 61801-1096

c. For each nominee, mail the following writing samples to your current State Coordinator by February 10, 2010:

• Three sets of papers with one copy of the Best Writing Sample stapled to one copy of the Theme Writing for each student.

• One copy of the completed nomination form for each student.

List of 2010 State Coordinators will be posted on NCTE’s website at http://www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw in December. You may also send an email to pyw@ncte.org to receive the mailing address for your state coordinator.

NOTE: NCTE receives the entry form and payment. State Coordinator receives all student papers and a copy of the entry form for each student.

For Information on This Program

Program and state coordinator information may be found at www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw

Contact NCTE at

- Phone: 1-800-369-6283, ext. 3608
- Fax: 217-328-0977
- Email: pyw@ncte.org
Entries

Two written compositions by each nominated student are required.

1. BEST WRITING SAMPLE A sample of writing that the student considers his or her best work, regardless of amount of revision. Research papers, term papers, or novels will not be accepted by state coordinators.

2. THEME WRITING The theme topic, developed by the Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee, is a common topic on which all students entering the program must write.

Directions for Best and Theme Writing

a. Printed from a computer in legible black type (no smaller than 12 point) or handwritten using dark ink
b. Double-spaced (except for poetry)
c. Margins are 1” on all sides (except for poetry)
d. Page number is in the upper right-hand corner
e. Printed on one side of 8.5 x 11 inch paper
f. Student’s name and “Best” or “Theme” appear in the upper left-hand corner of each page
g. School name does not appear on the papers or within the body of writing
h. Max pages for theme is four (4) pages. Max pages for best paper is seven (7) pages. An excerpt from a larger piece is acceptable with a paragraph explaining the piece from which the excerpt was taken.

2010 Theme

Scattering Light, Lifting Clouds

In Naomi Shihab Nye’s poem “Voices,” the speaker writes about the influence of a person to whom they are grateful for “scattering light” and “lifting clouds.” Think of a person or group who has influenced you to become the individual you are. Perhaps this person or group helped you to consider something from a new perspective or removed an obstacle that allowed you to achieve one of your goals. Whether through words, deeds, life examples, or in some other way, this person or group scattered a positive light in your life. How might you continue the cycle of scattering light for others? Write an original piece no longer than four pages in your preferred genre (such as drama, poetry, short story, essay, narratives, op ed piece, science fiction, memoir, news articles, etc.) Be sure to write for conciseness and clarity.

Judging

Teams of teachers at the state level will judge the writing and select Promising Young Writers. Papers will be judged on content, purpose, audience, tone, word choice, organization, development, and style. Judges take into account that the writers are eighth-grade students, not professional writers.

The number of winners in each state may not exceed the number of that state's delegation in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Virgin Islands, and American Schools Abroad are limited to two winners each. The District of Columbia and Canada are limited to four winners.

Awards

Each student who enters and writes will receive a citation. Certificates of Recognition will be awarded to students cited as winners. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to other nominees who write. All certificates will be mailed to the school principals. Additionally, winners’ names are posted on NCTE’s website along with the school name, city, and state.

Optional Permission for Future Use of Student Papers

In some cases, NCTE or its Affiliates may wish to use student papers for research purposes, to publish them in print or electronic publications, or to otherwise display them. Students who desire to have their papers considered for such use or publication must have a parent (or legal guardian) sign the nomination form. If permission is granted, use of a student’s paper is at NCTE’s and its Affiliates’ discretion.

Lack of parental signature will not prevent a student from participating in this program or from being designated a winner.
PROMISING YOUNG WRITERS

Nomination Form  Deadline to mail entry: February 10, 2010

Entry forms should be mailed to NCTE as early as possible.

Please read and follow these directions carefully (any deviation may disqualify student’s entry).

1. Nominees must be in the eighth grade in the present school year.
2. The number of nominees allowed from each school is determined by the eighth-grade average daily enrollment. See chart on page 1.
3. Complete a Nomination Form for each nominee; one student per form; one nominating teacher per school. This form may be photocopied.
4. A $5.00 entry fee is required for each student nominated.
5. Submit this form and entry fee together at one time to NCTE. If your school submits more than one form, staple all forms together and submit them all in the same envelope to: Promising Young Writers, NCTE, 1111 W. Kenyon Road, Urbana, IL 61801-1096.
6. Send student papers to State Coordinator with a copy of the entry form as per instructions on page 1.
7. Nominations postmarked after February 10, 2010, are subject to disqualification.
8. Please keep copies of student papers and a completed copy of this form for each student, including date mailed.
9. No student papers are returned.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Check enclosed
   (in U.S. funds and payable to NCTE)
☐ Charge my MasterCard
☐ Charge my VISA
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
Account No.
Exp. Date

Name on Account

Signature

CHECKLIST

☐ $5.00 fee and completed Nomination Form mailed to NCTE.
☐ 3 sets of student papers (best/theme) and 1 copy of the completed nomination form for each student sent to the current State Coordinator.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

☐ Check enclosed
   (in U.S. funds and payable to NCTE)
☐ Charge my MasterCard
☐ Charge my VISA
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
Account No.
Exp. Date

Name on Account

Signature

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.

Name of school ____________________________  School telephone (________) ____________________
                     (area code)  

School address ____________________________________________
                     (number) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Principal ____________________________________________

Nominating teacher ____________________________  email ____________________________
                     (last name) (first name)

Total number of nominees ______________________  Number entitled _________  Eighth-grade average daily enrollment ________________

Student’s name ________________________________________
                     (last name) (first name)

Student’s home address ____________________________
                     (number) (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Signature of student __________________________________

Signature of parent or legal guardian

By my signature, I agree to give NCTE and its Affiliates permission to use the student’s work for research and/or to publish or otherwise display the work in all print and electronic media along with the student’s name, school, and location.

Signature of nominating teacher ________________________

Signature of principal ________________________________

Names of students receiving certificates of recognition will be listed on NCTE’s website (www.ncte.org/awards/student/pyw) along with the school name, city, and state.

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Entries and fees must be mailed by February 10, 2010.

The Promising Young Writers program represents NCTE's commitment to early and continuing work in the development of writing. The school-based writing program was established in 1985 to stimulate and recognize students' writing talents and to emphasize the importance of writing skills among eighth-grade students.

Eighth-grade students who have been nominated by their schools in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, American Schools Abroad, Canada, and the Virgin Islands may participate in the program. Students who submit papers will receive either a Certificate of Recognition or a Certificate of Participation to recognize their efforts.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals has placed this program on the NASSP National Advisory List of Student Contests and Activities for 2009–2010.

NOTE: An entry fee of $5.00 per student is required to help cover administrative costs.