

Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee

Major activities: What major actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in your charge have been completed by your group since July 1, 2019? In each activity describe the more important features of the work, and connect your work to the [NCTE Vision Statement](#), if applicable.

1. Committee: Dawn Reed (Okemos, Michigan); Janelle Bence (Coppell, Texas); Jessyca Mathews (Flint, Michigan); Samuel Reed III (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania); Stephanie Robillard (Pal Alto, California); Chris Sloan (Salt Lake City, Utah); Maria Whitley (Weatherly, Pennsylvania)
2. What actions, projects, initiatives, or studies are “in progress” at this time?

Committee Development: New committee chair (November 2019); formed entirely new committee (2020) with educators including teachers from urban, suburban, rural schools across the country; committee charge reviewed with team; plan to add committee members next year so that terms are staggered (action for 2021)

Writing Prompt: Committee genre study of previous prompts, review of previous submissions, review of multimodal option for submission; Reviewed need for writing prompt to work within varying school scenarios for 2020 (i.e. face-to-face, online, hybrid); Collaboratively wrote 2020 Promising Young Writers prompt (completed July / August 2020); Prompt promoted on the NCTE website

Promotion: Discussion around ways to increase involvement, promotion, increase involvement for all student voices and increase opportunities for students of color (discussion started August 2020; ongoing); Suggestion to offer student-centered social media promotion; Suggestion to promote with the National Writing Project

Judging Process: Review judging process for clarity and equity (ongoing; discussion item for November 2020 to February 2021)

3. What have you accomplished so far, and what is your timeline for future work?

Please see the previous section.

4. How has the work of your group contributed to NCTE’s role in shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts?

The Promising Young Writers offers teachers an opportunity to encourage students to write for an authentic audience. The PYW prompt encourages student choice in writing approach, genre, and media. Additionally, the prompt relates to writing about the world around us. Relevancy is offered through the writing invitation, which may also prompt further reading and researching around issues that we see in the world today. The committee is continuing to explore student-centered means for promotion, as well as review of equitable practices throughout this program.

Suggestions from your group: Your good ideas help direct future NCTE actions.

1. What significant changes or trends in our field point to action from the Council?

Student use of social media offers an opportunity to promote this writing challenge directly to students. Continual connections to educational partners for promotion is helpful, such as connecting with the National Writing Project.

2. What trends need to factor into medium- to long-term NCTE planning?

Role of technology in learning for students and teachers; impact of varying educational scenarios to continue to promote authentic writing opportunities; continual thinking and action related to equity.

Dawn Reed, Chair

