

ncte student writing awards

NCTE Student Writing Awards: Celebrating Young Voices in Literature

ncte student writing awards have become a beacon of encouragement and recognition for young writers across the United States. These awards, organized by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), celebrate the creativity, skill, and passion of students who express themselves through the written word. Whether it's poetry, short stories, essays, or other forms of creative writing, the NCTE student writing awards provide a platform where students can shine and gain motivation to pursue their literary talents.

Understanding the significance of these awards, it's essential to explore what makes them special, how they work, and why they matter in the world of student writing.

What Are NCTE Student Writing Awards?

The NCTE student writing awards are annual contests that recognize outstanding student work in various writing categories. These awards aim to inspire students to explore their writing abilities, enhance their communication skills, and develop a lifelong appreciation for literature. Since its inception, the program has welcomed submissions from students of all grade levels, ranging from elementary school to high school seniors.

These awards are more than just a competition; they are a celebration of young voices, encouraging students to think deeply, write creatively, and share their unique perspectives. Winning an NCTE student writing award can be a significant milestone for a young writer, often opening doors to scholarships, further literary opportunities, and greater confidence in their craft.

The Purpose Behind the Awards

The primary goal of the NCTE student writing awards is to nurture the next generation of writers and thinkers. By providing a structured yet encouraging environment, the NCTE promotes literacy, critical thinking, and artistic expression. Teachers across the country often use the awards as part of their curriculum to motivate students and create a community around writing.

Additionally, the awards highlight the importance of diverse voices in literature. They encourage submissions from students of all backgrounds, helping to bring fresh ideas and narratives to the literary world.

Categories and Types of Writing Recognized

One of the strengths of the NCTE student writing awards is the variety of writing styles and genres accepted. This inclusivity allows students to experiment with different forms and find their unique voice.

Common Categories in the Awards

- **Creative Writing:** Short stories, flash fiction, and narrative essays that showcase imagination and storytelling skills.
- **Poetry:** Poems that explore themes through rhythm, metaphor, and language.
- **Expository Writing:** Essays and papers that explain, inform, or argue a point with clarity and evidence.
- **Personal Essays:** Reflective pieces that share personal experiences and insights.
- **Research Papers:** Well-organized and researched academic writing on various topics.

This broad range allows students to enter works that best represent their strengths and interests, encouraging a wide spectrum of literary talent.

How to Participate in NCTE Student Writing Awards

Participating in the NCTE student writing awards is straightforward but requires attention to detail and preparation. Here are some tips and steps to help students and educators navigate the process smoothly.

Steps to Enter the Competition

1. **Check Eligibility:** Confirm the grade level requirements and whether the competition is open to your school or district.
2. **Understand the Guidelines:** Carefully read the submission rules, including word count limits,

formatting standards, and deadlines.

3. **Select Your Best Piece:** Choose a piece of writing that reflects your skills and fits the category you're entering.
4. **Revise and Edit:** Polish your work by seeking feedback from teachers, peers, or family members to ensure clarity and impact.
5. **Submit According to Instructions:** Follow the submission process precisely—whether it's online upload, mailing a physical copy, or submitting through a school coordinator.

Tips for Crafting Award-Winning Entries

Writing for a contest can be intimidating, but with the right approach, students can maximize their chances of success.

- **Be Authentic:** Write from your own experiences and emotions. Authenticity often resonates more deeply with judges.
- **Focus on Structure:** Organize your writing clearly with a strong introduction, engaging body, and satisfying conclusion.
- **Use Vivid Language:** Whether in poetry or prose, descriptive language can bring your writing to life.
- **Read Widely:** Exposure to different writing styles and genres can inspire creativity and improve your own work.
- **Practice Consistently:** Writing regularly builds skill and confidence over time.

The Impact of NCTE Student Writing Awards on Students

Winning or even participating in the NCTE student writing awards can have a profound impact on students' academic and personal growth.

Boosting Confidence and Motivation

Recognition through these awards validates students' efforts and talents, often encouraging them to pursue writing more seriously. It can instill a sense of pride and achievement that extends beyond the classroom.

Enhancing Writing Skills

The preparation involved—drafting, revising, and polishing—helps students develop critical skills such as organization, clarity, and creativity. Feedback from judges or mentors further aids in improving their craft.

Opening Doors to Opportunities

Many winners receive scholarships, publishing opportunities, or invitations to literary events. Such experiences can be invaluable for students considering careers in writing, journalism, or related fields.

Creating a Community of Writers

The awards often foster connections among young writers, teachers, and mentors, building a supportive network that encourages continued growth and collaboration.

Supporting Teachers and Schools in Promoting the Awards

Teachers play a crucial role in encouraging students to participate in the NCTE student writing awards. By integrating the contest into classroom activities, educators can make writing more engaging and meaningful.

Incorporating the Awards into Curriculum

Teachers can design assignments that align with contest categories, helping students produce work ready for submission. This approach adds real-world relevance to classroom writing exercises.

Organizing Workshops and Peer Reviews

Facilitating writing workshops or peer editing sessions can improve students' writing quality and build a sense of community. It also helps students learn to give and receive constructive feedback.

Celebrating Participation

Recognizing all students who submit entries, regardless of winning, encourages continued effort and enthusiasm. Schools can hold celebrations or publish student works in newsletters or literary magazines.

Expanding Beyond the Awards: Lifelong Benefits of Writing

While the NCTE student writing awards spotlight young talent, the skills developed through writing competitions have lasting value. Writing fosters critical thinking, communication, and empathy—qualities essential in any career or life situation.

Encouraging students to engage with writing at an early age sets them on a path toward lifelong learning and creative expression. The awards serve as a catalyst, inspiring students not only to write but to appreciate the power of words.

Whether a student's goal is to become a published author, a journalist, or simply a confident communicator, participating in the NCTE student writing awards is a step toward achieving that vision.

In essence, these awards are much more than a contest—they are a celebration of student voices, a platform for growth, and a testament to the enduring importance of writing in education and beyond.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

The NCTE Student Writing Awards are annual competitions organized by the National Council of Teachers of English to recognize and celebrate outstanding student writing across various genres and grade levels.

Who is eligible to participate in the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

Students enrolled in schools that are members of the NCTE, typically ranging from elementary through

high school, are eligible to participate in the NCTE Student Writing Awards.

What types of writing are accepted in the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

The awards accept a wide range of writing genres including poetry, essays, short stories, plays, and multimedia projects, depending on the specific category and grade level.

How can teachers get their students involved in the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

Teachers can encourage their students to submit original works by coordinating with their school's NCTE affiliate and following the submission guidelines provided on the official NCTE website.

When are the NCTE Student Writing Awards typically held?

The NCTE Student Writing Awards are usually held annually, with submission deadlines often falling in the early part of the year and winners announced later in the spring or early summer.

Are there prizes or recognition given to winners of the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

Yes, winners receive certificates, publication opportunities, and sometimes scholarships or monetary awards, along with recognition at NCTE events and on their website.

How does the judging process work for the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

Submissions are evaluated by panels of educators and writing professionals based on creativity, clarity, originality, and adherence to the contest guidelines.

Can students submit multiple entries to the NCTE Student Writing Awards?

Submission policies vary by affiliate and category, but generally, students are encouraged to submit their best work and may be allowed to enter more than one piece if it meets the guidelines.

Where can I find past winning entries from the NCTE Student Writing

Awards?

Past winning entries are often archived on the official NCTE website or through affiliate sites, providing examples of exemplary student writing.

How do the NCTE Student Writing Awards benefit participating students?

Participating in the NCTE Student Writing Awards helps students develop their writing skills, gain confidence, receive constructive feedback, and earn recognition that can enhance their academic and creative portfolios.

Additional Resources

****Exploring the Impact and Significance of NCTE Student Writing Awards****

ncte student writing awards represent a cornerstone initiative by the National Council of Teachers of English, designed to recognize and celebrate exceptional student writing across the United States. These awards serve a dual purpose: they encourage young writers to hone their craft and provide educators with a platform to showcase student achievements in literacy. As one of the most respected honors in the academic writing community, the NCTE student writing awards have cultivated a legacy of promoting creative expression and critical thinking among students of varying grade levels.

The landscape of student writing competitions is broad, but the NCTE's framework distinguishes itself by emphasizing both originality and adherence to high standards of writing excellence. This article delves into the structure, impact, and educational value of the NCTE student writing awards, while also comparing it to other notable contests and analyzing how it fits within the wider context of student literary development programs.

Understanding the Structure of NCTE Student Writing Awards

The NCTE student writing awards are organized to cover multiple categories, catering to diverse genres and age groups. These categories typically include poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and sometimes multimedia projects, reflecting the evolving nature of literacy in the digital age. Entrants often range from middle school through high school students, providing a broad spectrum for recognizing emerging talent.

Categories and Eligibility

Eligibility for the NCTE student writing awards is generally contingent upon school enrollment, with submissions often facilitated through educators or school coordinators. This ensures that the awards maintain a level of academic integrity and community involvement. The categories reward distinct writing techniques and styles, such as:

- **Poetry:** Celebrating creativity, rhythm, and emotional impact.
- **Fiction:** Focusing on narrative structure, character development, and originality.
- **Nonfiction:** Highlighting clarity, argumentation, and research skills.
- **Multimodal Writing:** Incorporating digital literacy through combined text, images, and multimedia.

This diversity encourages students to explore different literary forms and develop versatile writing skills.

Judging Criteria and Process

The award submissions undergo a rigorous evaluation process led by panels of experienced educators, writers, and literacy experts affiliated with NCTE. Judges assess entries based on originality, technical skill, adherence to genre conventions, and overall impact. This multi-faceted approach ensures that the awards recognize not only technical proficiency but also creativity and voice.

Transparency and fairness in the judging process are crucial to maintaining the awards' prestige. Feedback mechanisms, although limited, sometimes accompany the recognition, providing students with constructive insights to refine their writing further.

The Educational Impact of NCTE Student Writing Awards

Recognition through the NCTE student writing awards can profoundly influence students' academic trajectories and personal growth. Winning or even participating in such a nationally respected competition often boosts student confidence and motivates continued engagement with writing.

Benefits for Students

The benefits extend beyond accolades and certificates:

1. **Enhanced Writing Skills:** The competitive environment encourages students to polish their work, fostering diligence and attention to detail.
2. **College and Career Readiness:** Award recipients can leverage their achievements in college applications and scholarship opportunities.
3. **Increased Motivation:** Recognition from a respected body like NCTE validates the importance of writing and literacy.
4. **Exposure to Peer Work:** Many awards programs publish finalists' works, allowing participants to engage with the broader writing community.

Support for Educators and Schools

For educators, the NCTE student writing awards offer a structured platform to assess and promote student writing excellence. Schools often use these awards to highlight their commitment to literacy and creative learning. The awards also provide a pedagogical framework that aligns with curriculum goals, encouraging the integration of writing skills development throughout the academic year.

Comparisons with Other Student Writing Competitions

While the NCTE student writing awards hold a unique position due to their affiliation with a professional teachers' organization, it is instructive to compare them with other prominent contests such as the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and the Young Authors Contest.

- **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards:** Known for its expansive reach and inclusion of visual arts, this competition offers a broad platform but sometimes receives criticism for its commercial sponsorship.
- **Young Authors Contest:** Typically more localized and less competitive, this contest focuses on fostering early writing habits rather than national recognition.
- **NCTE Student Writing Awards:** Distinguished by their educator-led evaluation and emphasis on academic rigor, these awards maintain a balance between creativity and scholastic standards.

These distinctions highlight the NCTE awards' commitment to fostering serious writing skills that are both

creatively and academically sound.

Challenges and Opportunities for Future Development

Despite their many strengths, the NCTE student writing awards face challenges related to accessibility and evolving literacy practices. For example, students from under-resourced schools may encounter barriers to participation, including lack of awareness or insufficient support in preparing submissions. Additionally, as digital literacy becomes increasingly important, expanding categories to include more multimedia and digital storytelling could enhance relevance.

On the opportunity front, the integration of technology in submissions and judging could streamline the process and provide richer feedback. Expanding outreach efforts to diverse school districts would further democratize access, ensuring that talented writers from all backgrounds can benefit.

Potential Enhancements

- **Digital Platforms:** Utilizing online submission portals with interactive feedback tools.
- **Workshops and Webinars:** Offering preparatory sessions for students and educators to optimize writing skills.
- **Expanded Publication Opportunities:** Featuring winners' work in broader media outlets or anthologies.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborating with libraries, literacy nonprofits, and tech companies to broaden engagement.

Such initiatives could amplify the awards' impact and adapt to the shifting educational landscape.

The NCTE student writing awards continue to play a vital role in nurturing the next generation of writers. By merging traditional literary values with modern educational needs, they provide a meaningful platform that honors both creativity and academic excellence. As literacy evolves, so too must these awards, embracing innovation while preserving their core mission of celebrating exemplary student writing.

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ncte student writing awards: *Anthology of Student Writing* Virginia Association of Teachers of English, National Council of Teachers of English, 1984

ncte student writing awards: *How to Create an Independent Research Program* Melanie Jacobs Krieger, 1999-06-15 Only a few hundred schools across the United States have research programs. Although some of the schools with programs are magnet schools or highly advantaged schools, many ordinary schools have successful programs. Every school is capable of at least a modest program for those students who want to work on independent research projects. This practical book provides a school district with a comprehensive guide on how to establish an independent research program. Use this book as your step-by-step guide to creating an independent research program and preparing your students to enter the national independent research competitions. Although the curriculum described in this book is based on the objectives of various national competitions, the students are not in a competitive classroom environment. Instead, the competition rules are used to create a working atmosphere that resembles the professional world. Krieger takes you from selling the idea of the program to educators, students, and the community through critical curriculum and methodology for the teacher, to finally entering national research competitions and continuing your program.

ncte student writing awards: *A Rhetoric for Writing Program Administrators 2e* Rita Malenczyk, 2016-09-01 *A Rhetoric for Writing Program Administrators* (2nd Edition) presents the major issues and questions in the field of writing program administration. The collection provides aspiring, new, and seasoned WPAs with the theoretical lenses, terminologies, historical contexts, and research they need to understand the nature, history, and complexities of their intellectual and administrative work.

ncte student writing awards: *Writing a Narrative* Lauren Spencer, Roger Beutel, 2011-08-15 Everyone has a story to tell, whether factual or fictitious or somewhere in between. Releasing these stories from our imagination and memories can be achieved through narrative writing. As with any creative writing, one's ability to show an event unfold through the use of interesting details is crucial. This narrative art is achieved with the use of pacing, characterization, dialogue, and action. This book examines all the elements needed to get the creative process moving, including choosing an idea, firming up the plot, and strengthening the narrative voice. Various literary techniques are explored that can enhance one's writing when combined with basic story elements. In addition, prewriting techniques, brainstorming, detail selection, ordering of events, style, dialogue, revision strategies, and proofreading and editing are all emphasized, explained, and explored. Includes a chapter on digital media and the new venues and tools available to writers, including Wikipedia, blogs, vlogs, community forums, and collaborative digital writing projects.

ncte student writing awards: *It's the Student, Not the College* Kristin M. White, 2015-04-07 The future is in your hands—not Harvard's TO: All students wondering "Can I get into my dream college?" CC: All parents wondering "Can we afford it?" FROM: Educational consultant Kristin M. White MEMO: COLLEGE RANKINGS DON'T MATTER. This claim might sound crazy, but it's true: Research shows that where you go to school makes little difference to future financial success or quality of life—personal qualities such as ambition, perseverance, and a sense of purpose are all more important. Kristin M. White has helped hundreds of parents and students look beyond the dream-school hype and focus on what's most important. Now, in *It's the Student, Not the College*, she shows how to avoid unrepayable debt and set yourself up to grow, excel, and enjoy yourself at any school. Instead of obsessing over GPA cutoffs and SAT scores, students will learn how to build a personal "Success Profile"—by adopting the traits that help stellar students make the grade in school and life. Plus . . . Why what you do in school counts more than where you go 14 surefire ways to develop your Success Profile as a student and beyond Criteria to consider when choosing a college How to find a good fit for your family's finances And tips for graduating career-ready and

landing a great first job. Expensive, elite colleges have too much sway over the minds and bank accounts of students and parents. It's the Student, Not the College breaks that stranglehold—and reveals the real secrets of success.

ncte student writing awards: *The Indiana Scene* , 1998

ncte student writing awards: *Kiera Cass* Edward Willett, 2014-12-15 Although still in the early stages of her career, Kiera Cass has enjoyed the kind of success most writers only dream of. After publishing her first novel, *The Siren*, in 2009, she went on to write *The Selection*, a dystopian young adult novel set in a future version of the United States in which girls are selected by lottery to compete for the position of Princess. Although she had had no luck at all in finding either an agent or a traditional publisher for *The Siren*, *The Selection* landed her, in short order, an agent and a three-book deal with a top publisher. Cass fans and newcomers alike will enjoy reading this biography of an exuberant but down-to-earth young author.

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ncte student writing awards: *The English Record* , 1993

ncte student writing awards: *The Best of Corwin: Equity* Randall B. Lindsey, 2011-10-20

Equity expertise from premier educators This resource showcases key chapters from critically acclaimed Corwin publications written by stellar authors. These renowned educators believe in making education accessible and successful for all students and ultimately creating a stronger democratic society. Offering a unique perspective on overcoming barriers to student achievement, they share academic research, creative ideas, and concrete, practical strategies. Key topics include: The tools of cultural proficiency Courageous conversations about race How to analyze data to uncover and eliminate inequities Equity audits Powerful classroom strategies Reflecting on practice

ncte student writing awards: How to Teach Students who Don't Look Like You Bonnie M. Davis, 2009 Help teachers reflect, shift perceptions, and find more effective approaches for teaching their students! Based on the best-selling book *How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You*, this guide gives staff developers and workshop leaders the tools to facilitate book study groups, seminars, and professional development events that help teachers close the achievement gap for culturally and ethnically diverse students. Facilitators will be able to demonstrate culturally appropriate and research-based teaching strategies for diverse learners and lead discussions on topics that include Identifying cultural factors that influence educators' perceptions of their students' communication styles, classroom behaviors, and learning needs Developing and strengthening students' reading and writing skills Building relationships and community with students The chapter-by-chapter study guide follows the same format as the companion book and features Activities Discussion questions Suggestions for practical applications Chapter summaries Handouts Resources for extending learning Sample agendas for half-day, one-day, and three-day workshops A workshop evaluation form The Facilitator's Guide to *How to Teach Students Who Don't Look Like You* is ideal for staff developers or anyone leading professional development for groups of any size-pairs, small workshops, or large seminars.

ncte student writing awards: Assessing and Improving Student Writing in College Barbara E. Walvoord, 2014-07-07 Step-by-step guidance for shaping better writers while keeping faculty workloads manageable Effective communication is a critical skill for many academic disciplines and careers, and so colleges and universities and their faculty members are rightfully committed to improving student writing across the curriculum. Guiding and assessing student writing in classrooms, general education, and departments takes knowledge, planning, and persistence, but it can be done effectively and efficiently. Written in the concise, accessible style Barbara Walvoord is known for, *Assessing and Improving Student Writing in College: A Guide for Institutions, General Education, Departments, and Classrooms* offers administrators, program chairs, general education leaders, and classroom instructors the guidance they need. The book provides concrete suggestions for how to: Articulate goals for student writing Measure student writing Improve student writing Document that improvement The book begins by addressing four basic concepts: what we mean by writing, what we mean by good writing, how students learn to write, and the purposes of assessment. Next, Walvoord explains the various approaches and methods for assessing writing, urging a combination of them adapted to the institution's purposes and political context. After this introduction, successive chapters offer realistic, practical advice to institution-wide and general education leaders, department members, and classroom instructors. Walvoord addresses issues such as how to engage faculty, how to use rubrics, how to aggregate assessment information at the department and institutional levels, and how to report assessment information to accreditors. The chapter for classroom instructors offers practical suggestions: how to add more writing to a course without substantially increasing the grading load; how to construct writing assignments, how to make grading and responding more effective and time-efficient, how to address grammar and punctuation, and how to support students whose native language is not English. The book also includes four helpful appendices: a taxonomy of Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) and Writing in the Disciplines (WID) programs; sample outlines for faculty development workshops; a student survey on teaching methods instructors can use to inform their choices in the classroom; and a student self-check cover sheet designed to help students take

ownership of their own learning and responsibility for turning in complete, correct assignments. Practical, step-by-step guidance for each point in the assessment and improvement process creates a cohesive, institution-wide system that keeps students, faculty, and administrators on the same page.

ncte student writing awards: Literacy Assessment and Metacognitive Strategies

Stephanie L. McAndrews, 2020-07-27 Introduction to literacy, assessment, and instruction -- Building relationships: learning from students, families, and community -- Language development -- Word analysis -- Reading fluency -- Reading, listening, and viewing comprehension -- Writing composition and visual representation.

ncte student writing awards: A Guide to Curriculum Planning in English Language Arts Ellen L. Last, 1989

ncte student writing awards: Financial Aids for Higher Education Oreon Keeslar, 1991

ncte student writing awards: *The Community of the Book* John Young Cole, This is a selective listing of organizations that promote books and reading! administer literacy projects, and encourage the study of books. Compiled by Carren O. Kaston, The Community of the Book focuses on national programs of special interest to the Center for the Book in The Library of Congress, but should be of use to the entire book community. The emphasis is on organizations in the United States, where recently there has been renewed interest in educational reform, in literacy, and in the future of publishing. The assumption underlining this unusual directory is that a community of the book does exist and that it can be mobilized to keep books and reading central in the life of Democratic societies. The listings provide a richly detailed account of 89 major resource centers, providing names of directors, addresses, telephone numbers, and founding dates. In addition, each listing discusses the purposes of the organization, examples of its activities, publications sponsored, and sources of fiscal support. In short, the volume is intended to serve as a national catalyst for stimulating public interest in books in particular and reading in general. Cole provides a pellucid opening essay on the subject: Is There a Community of the Book? What is surprising is not his clear affirmative answer, so much as the closely argued historical and analytical study of how this community has been deepened through the conscious activities of The Library of Congress. The work concludes with a brief but valuable guide to other resources, ranging from publishing, broadcasting, bookselling, libraries, and book collecting and culture.

ncte student writing awards: *Handbook for Planning an Effective Writing Program, K-12* DIANE Publishing Company, 1996-02 This popular handbook is designed to provide teachers, curriculum specialists, school administrators, parents, and students with a standard for assessing existing writing programs, and a tool for helping them design new programs. It includes information to help them identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing or proposed writing programs and to select strategies for change. Addresses both the content and teaching methodology of a writing program; that is, what ought to be taught and how it should be taught. Award Winner. Illustrated.

ncte student writing awards: College Planning for Gifted Students Sandra L. Berger, 2006 College Planning for Gifted Students: Choosing and Getting Into the Right College is a must-have for any gifted or advanced learner planning to attend college. Sandra Berger, a nationally recognized expert on college and career planning for gifted students, provides a hands-on, practical guide to college planning in this revised volume of the best-selling College Planning for Gifted Students book. Berger focuses specifically on helping gifted students discover who they are, and how that discovery corresponds to finding the perfect postsecondary endeavor. The author also provides useful, practical advice for: writing college application essays, requesting recommendation letters, visiting colleges, and acing the college entrance interview. Book jacket.

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DREAM BOLDLY - 2025 NCTE Annual Convention Join us in Denver for the 2025 NCTE Annual Convention, November 20-23. Explore sessions, speakers, and events for educators at every level

Registration & Pricing Information - 2025 NCTE Annual Convention Registration for the 2025 NCTE Annual Convention includes access to all General Sessions, concurrent sessions, the All-Attendee Gathering, Special Interest Group events, the Now

NCTE Intellectual Freedom Center - National Council of Teachers of English NCTE staff works with educators to offer confidential information, guidance, support, and next steps in accordance with NCTE's resources on intellectual freedom in the classroom

Events - NCTE - National Council of Teachers of English 2025 NCTE Annual Convention Denver, CO November 20-23, 2025 Early-bird pricing is available through October 15, 2025. Register today

Join the NCTE Community - National Council of Teachers of English NCTE is the professional home for literacy educators. Check out all the ways you can get involved with the NCTE community

2026 Call for Proposals - Conference on College Composition and Communication Questions and requests for coaches can be sent to CCCCEvents@ncte.org. The 2026 CCCC Annual Convention will include offsite participation options for those who are not

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