

**Paul L. Thomas
Honored with 2013 George Orwell Award**

Urbana, IL – November 11, 2013 – Paul L. Thomas of Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina, has been named the winner of the 2013 George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language for *Evidence? Secretary Duncan, You Can't Handle the Evidence* (<http://atthechalkface.com/2013/06/26/evidence-secretary-duncan-you-cant-handle-the-evidence>).

The Orwell award was established in 1975 by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). This award recognizes an author, editor, or producer who has made outstanding contributions to the honesty and clarity in public language through critical analysis of public discourse.

Thomas taught high school English for 18 years before turning to teacher education at Furman University. He is a column editor for one of NCTE's publications, *English Journal*. He has also published several books such as *Becoming and Being a Teacher: Confronting Traditional Norms to Create New Democratic Realities* and *De-Testing and De-Grading Schools: Authentic Alternatives to Accountability and Standardization*. Thomas' focus throughout his career has been on writing and the teaching of writing. You can view his writing life at one of his blogs: <http://wrestlingwithwriting.blogspot.com>.

He will be announced as the recipient of the George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language at the Sunday General Session on November 24, during the 2013 NCTE Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts.

For more information about the NCTE George Orwell Award, including past winners, see <http://www.ncte.org/volunteer/groups/publiclangcom/orwellaward>.

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The National Council of Teachers of English, with 35,000 individual and institutional members worldwide, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. For more information, please visit <http://www.ncte.org>.

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