

Promising Young Writers Advisory Committee

Names, affiliations, and geographic region for members:

Stephanie Robillard (chair), Saint Mary's College of California, Hercules, California
Christopher Rogers, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, Philadelphia, PA
Theresa Walter, Great Neck South High School, NY
Alex Corbitt, SUNY Cortland, NY
Tairin Quinn, University of Houston, TX
Emma Bene, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
Amy Pollard, Hanford Joint Union High School, Hanford, CA
Mary (Maggie) McConnaha, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI
Grace Villa, Pleasanton Unified School District, Pleasanton, CA
N'Kengé Robertson, Detroit Unified, Detroit, CA (invited)
Tonya Perry, Executive Committee Liaison
Ashley Sisk, NCTE Staff

Actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in progress

- Reaching out to local writing projects to promote the prompt
- Designing 2–3 lesson plans to accompany the prompt to assist teachers who wish to integrate the prompt into their lessons (aligned with the approaches outlined in *Understanding and Teaching Writing: Guiding Principles*)
- Generating a list of possible themes to develop a prompt around based on current events, youth interests and social movements for future consultation and development

So far, we've invited new members that represent a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, at all levels of English (and English teacher) education.

Here is our current timeline:

- Fall collaboration with BAWP around prompt promotion
- Partner with potential BAWP TCs in implementing accompanying lessons
- November meeting at NCTE for those in attendance
- Spring meeting with committee to review the charge and list of brainstorms
- June meeting(s) to craft an initial prompt
- July meeting(s) to finalize prompt for submission at the end of July

The Promising Young Writers Program charge includes stimulating and recognizing writing talents of eighth-grade students, affording them the opportunity to write for an authentic audience, engage with a relevant writing prompt, and publish student writing through submission. This program offers choice, relevancy, audience, and purpose for writing. The writing prompt is relevant to our current world landscape and provides opportunities for student writers to explore genre, consider research to inform thinking, or take a personal view in the written response.

Creating a handful of lessons to accompany the prompt is a way of demonstrating the values and approaches advocated by NCTE around the teaching of writing.

Significant changes or trends in our field:

- Student promotion: Inviting the student winners from the past or previous years to create a video promoting the program—so that it is peer to peer promoted rather than teacher to student.

-Connecting with educational partners: How can we build on established relationships with the National Writing Project and local projects to encourage (and hopefully increase) participation.

Trends to factor into medium to long-term NCTE planning:

- Continuing to involve greater student participation—while 2022 saw an increase of 26 in nominated students, we still only have participation from less than half of the states. Receiving data on who is participating, from what regions/districts/schools might help with targeted prompt promotion

-Increasing celebration of students who contribute such as releasing a digital anthology of works. I think this would help with celebrating the project and also provide student samples for writing development.

-Developing the platform/infrastructure for submitting multi-media submissions to the 2024 prompt