

REALM (Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines) Committee

Names, affiliations, and geographic region for members:

Name: Benjamin Lally (CHAIR)
Institution/Affiliation: Hopkinton High School (MA)

Name: Jim Barnabee
Institution/Affiliation: Adlai E. Stevenson High School

Name: Alexa Garvoille
Institution/Affiliation: Virginia Tech

Name: Laura Gellin
Institution/Affiliation: Park Tudor School

Name: David A. Ragsdale
Institution/Affiliation: Clarke Central HS

Name: Gillian Schneider
Institution/Affiliation: Neuqua Valley High School

Name: Amy Williams-Eddy
Institution/Affiliation: Saint Mary's Hall

Actions, projects, initiatives, or studies in progress

- Gillian Schneider finished her year as Interim Committee Chair, with Benjamin Lally taking over for the next three years.
- We are reconfiguring our scoring rubrics to make them clearer and to help them better reflect what we wish to see in our submissions
- We have begun the process of putting together a video of students speaking about the importance of having a successful literary magazine. We hope to be able to display this video on the NCTE webpage and at the conferences.
- We have been expanding our pool of judges, which will become more necessary if we continue to gather greater numbers of submissions.
- To help with our growing pool of judges, and to help correct some wild disparities in scoring, we are looking into creating a series of short videos showing examples of what new judges should look for when judging a literary magazine.
- Benjamin Lally updated our digital map for NCTE, highlighting the top magazines in the country. This past year, we have begun adding contact information and links to all of the winning magazines.

Accomplishments and timeline for future work

- We have reached out to schools to increase the number of submissions to the REALM competition. In this past year, we gathered 378 submissions, up from 262 in the previous year. This marks the highest number of submissions to the contest since 2012.
- We have launched our new scoring rubrics for middle school, high school, and college publications.
- We introduced a new award to recognize the top magazines that are new to our contest to encourage more schools to submit their work and to add a greater diversity to the magazines that get selected for our top recognitions each year.
- We rebooted the online judging system to correct some flaws that we discovered last year
- We began the tradition of having a REALM table in the Exhibit Hall at the annual NCTE conference

Contributions to shaping the profession of teaching and/or the understanding of literacy in educational contexts:

Our greatest goal is to encourage schools to support their artists and their writers by either creating new literary magazines or championing existing ones. We held a session at the Anaheim conference at which the REALM Committee made connections with teachers from around the country who wished to either launch a literary magazine at their school or get their magazine up to the top tier by seeking advice from the REALM Committee members.

Significant changes or trends in our field:

Now more than ever, student writing needs to be encouraged at every level of education. The rise of ChatGPT and artificial intelligence writing programs has brought a lot of concern and attention to how analytical writing works in academic settings. An unexplored territory is the effect that these technologies will have on creative writing endeavors, such as courses or publications that encourage student work.

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

The role that artificial intelligence will have on creative writing courses and magazines.