

# English Notes

Volume 10, Issue 3  
January 2014

## Special Points of Interest:

- Top English Sites
- Contest Task Force

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## From the President

## New Year Wishes for 2014...

Another semester has come and gone, and we are now in the home stretch of the 2013/2014 school year. I hope that this column finds you in the middle of a bustling, happy week. Each new year is filled with new challenges. Students will test our patience, the common core will test our ability to adapt, and research papers and essays will test our endurance. As always, we will face them with our brave teacher face and make it through. We will ask colleagues for advice, read journal articles, and question the number of essays we assign. We will make it through.

The new year will also be filled with new adventures. We will attend workshops and take classes. We will use new apps, programs, ideas, and literature with our students. We will find things that work and things that don't. Our students may even teach us a thing or two. Take note of all your wonderful successes and use them for a presentation at SDCTE in October. Finding great teaching tid-bits is no small feat-we can all use something to shake things up and get us out of a slump now and then. We all have something worth

sharing with the rest of the organization and I challenge each of you to submit a proposal for the conference. If you don't want to present alone, you can present with a colleague or even a teacher at another school. After all, without teachers bringing their ideas to the conference-we don't have a conference.

If you find this newsletter reaching you in a stressful winter slump, try using blogging, Prezi, or movie maker to get your students excited. Check out some tutorials on YouTube and see what these programs have to offer. Read some literature set in a tropical setting and decorate your room to match. Start the day by journaling to some upbeat music that will lift your mood and the mood of your students. If all else fails...don't fret, summer break is roughly four months away. We can make it!

SDCTE President  
Cassi Pietz



## SDCTE 2014 Call for Presenters



### Presenters for October 2014 Needed!

Fill out that professional development portion of your CV! Become a presenter at the 2014 SDCTE Conference at the Ramada Inn, in Mitchell, SD, October 3rd and 4th. Don't want to tackle it yourself? Start talking to your colleagues about sharing their ideas and bring a presentation!

Look for the full application in your inbox!



# Top English/Language Arts Web Sites (as compiled by Stephanie Hansen)

## 1. SAS Curriculum Pathways

<http://www.sascurriculumpathways.com/portal/>  
Provides standards-based lessons and curriculum ideas for core courses. Has a wonderful writing navigator program.

## 2. Digital Public Library of America

<http://dp.la/>  
The Digital Public Library of America brings together the riches of America's libraries, archives, and museums, and makes them freely available to the world. (Taken from site)

## 3. Turnitin Webcasts

<http://pages.turnitin.com/webcasttl.html>  
The series of webinars discusses all aspects of plagiarism.

## 4. DOC Cop

<http://www.doccop.com/index.html>  
DOC Cop is a collusion, cryptomnesia and plagiarism detection tool. DOC Cop creates reports displaying the correlation and matches between documents or a document and the Web. (Taken from site)

## 5. Teach Thought

<http://www.teachthought.com/>  
A great education blog about teaching thinking and other aspects of education

## 6. Unlocking Media Literacy

<https://sites.google.com/site/unlockmedialiteracy/>  
A collection of site to teach media literacy and copyright

## 7. Spartan Guides

<http://sdst.libguides.com/content.php?pid=192765&sid=2598362>  
A collection for copyright, fair use and creative commons



information sites with videos.

## 8. The Teaching Channel

<https://www.teachingchannel.org/>  
A great resource for videos, blogs, chats, information on great teaching. Includes comments for national teacher of the year Sarah Brown Wessling

## 9. Ed Web

<http://home.edweb.net/>  
A community of educators who offer hundreds of webinars and other professional development on a variety of topics. Join a group and learn.

## 10. Design Thinking

<http://designthinking.ideo.com/>  
This site presents ideas about teaching thinking skills... everything from asking questions to assessment

## 2014 Diigo Teaching Tips

### [Is Common Core the Enemy of Autonomy?](#)

A great blog post about Common Core, the current the hot topic of many states around the nation.  
From Teaching for Triumph by Justin Minkel

### [edWeb.net](#)

A highly-acclaimed professional social and learning network that has become a vibrant online community for exceptional educators, decision-makers, and influencers who are on the leading edge of innovation in education.

# A Call for Suggestions: SD's New 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing Contest



Wanted: Volunteers for a Writing Contest Taskforce. Duties include provide suggestions and feedback to a small group of language arts/English teachers, working online, to develop an 11th grade writing contest specific to South Dakota student and teacher needs. Reply to Mary Moeller, Writing Contest Coordinator, at [mary.moeller@sdstate.edu](mailto:mary.moeller@sdstate.edu).

Here's some more background on our task. Since the 11th grade Achievement in Writing Award, sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English, has not garnered interest from South Dakota English teachers in recent years, the Executive Board has decided to investigate the possibilities for creating our own contest in South Dakota. We would like to develop a writing award opportunity that would meet our

own needs. At the 2013 fall conference, I hosted a roundtable to gather ideas.

- A few of the suggestions we received included these:
- going online
- allowing for multiple submissions
- offering peer review opportunities
- encouraging revisions based on feedback
- looking for scholarship support as an award
- and more!

Now we'd like to work through a taskforce to further develop ideas. We'd like to have something solid to present at next year's conference, with the possibility of launching a pilot contest to test the waters before then. As a minimum, our goal will be to have a draft of writing contest plan ready for adoption at the 2014 conference.

## Get Involved! Contribute to the Newsletter!

Want to appear in the SDCTE quarterly newsletter? We want to help recognize and share the wonderful things going on in classroom all across the state. Tell us what is going on in your classroom or in a colleague's classroom. We would love for you to be a featured teacher! In 100-250 words tell us what is going on in your classroom with technology, common core, or a new take on an old lesson. If possible please include a photograph.

## 2014 Diigo Teaching Tips

### [A Visual Guide To Teaching Students Digital Citizenship Skills](#)

Always a great topic for students in the ELA Classroom in infographic form.

### [Storybird—The ART of Storytelling](#)

Create stories by starting with the pictures. A great, creative site, free for educators

**Get Published! Contribute an article to the newsletter. Send your submissions to editor Jason Kurtz at [Jason.Kurtz@k12.sd.us](mailto:Jason.Kurtz@k12.sd.us).**



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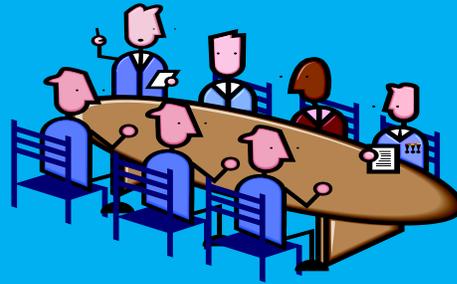
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## **SDCTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Re)Inventing the Future of English**



**October 3-4, 2014  
Mitchell, South Dakota  
CALL FOR PRESENTERS  
DEADLINE MARCH 30TH!  
Check your inbox for details!**

### **Your 2013/2014 membership dues are due!**

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*South Dakota Council of Teachers of English*

<http://sdcte.nfshost.com/main/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level Taught \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Teaching Experience: \_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_ 1-5 \_\_\_\_ 6+

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is \$25.00 which pays for membership until September of 2014. (\$20 for new members) (Membership is \$30 after Nov. 1st)

See the SDCTE website for more information joining SDCTE and to pay dues using PayPal.

Return this application form to: Karen Harrington  
Treasurer, SDCTE  
800 W 10th  
Mitchell, SD 57301