

**#WHY I
WRITE**

National Day on Writing Toolkit

Writing is important, and that's why we're thrilled that you're hosting a

National Day on Writing Event.

What did you write today? A check? An email? A text message? A shopping list? A chapter of your book? A news article? A tweet?

We all have our own reasons for why we write, and many are essential to accomplishing our daily plans, not to mention achieving our dreams.

The **National Day on Writing**®, October 20, is an initiative of the **National Council of Teachers of English**. It is built on the premise that writing is critical to literacy **but needs greater attention and celebration**.

Since 2009 we've seen hundreds of thousands of people share their responses and engage in activities around the theme of **#WhyIWrite**. Their collective voices are raising the volume on this issue.

We must work to ensure that our teachers and schools have what they need to help students develop as writers. When you host a National Day on Writing event, you help to elevate that conversation.

Be sure to share what you do with us, so we can help spread the word. Include the **#WhyIWrite** hashtag on your posts and share with us on the following channels:



@ncte



@nctegram



ncte.org

4

Easy Steps to Hosting a National Day on Writing

#WhyIWrite event.

1. Plan

Identify the community with whom you want to celebrate writing and find a space and time where you can meet. Publicize your event.

4. showcase

2. Do

At the event, invite participants to share their #WhyIWrite stories in ways that work for your audience, space, and time. We've included story bubbles you can print, but some people like to use large sheets of paper for a graffiti wall, some like to host open mic experiences, some like to create space for longer-form writing.

3. Snap & Share

Take photos of the event and the work participants create (with their permission) and post on social media via the #WhyIWrite hashtag. Share with @ncte on Twitter so we can boost the content.

Keep the writing up and keep the conversations going. Invite local leaders to see the writing that was created and use it as a launchpad for conversations around supporting the teaching and learning of writing.

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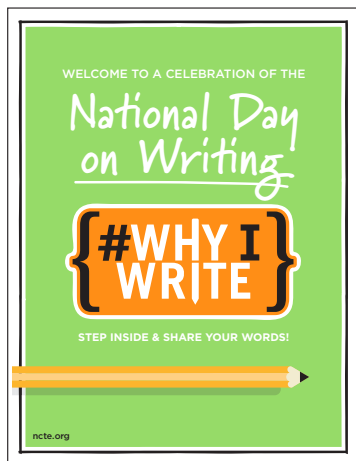
Activities to Consider for your National Day on Writing Event

1. Host a Write-In!
2. Create a graffiti board.
3. Cover the sidewalk in powerful words.
4. Conduct a spoken-word/poetry slam celebration.
5. Have your students prepare for one of NCTE's writing award programs.
6. Create a class recipe book or have students share recipes online.
7. Submit book reviews via a site like Goodreads.
8. Interview family members and share stories. You can record them using something like the StoryCorps app.
9. Create a writing gallery walk where viewers can stop and admire pieces of writing—either in person or virtually.
10. Plan and write out a travel itinerary.



In 2018, NCTE partnered with National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, Jacqueline Woodson, and the Children's Book Council to create a set of resources for hosting a Write-In. You can check out the full set of resources by clicking here: www2.ncte.org/national-write-in/

We have created printable materials you can use during your event.



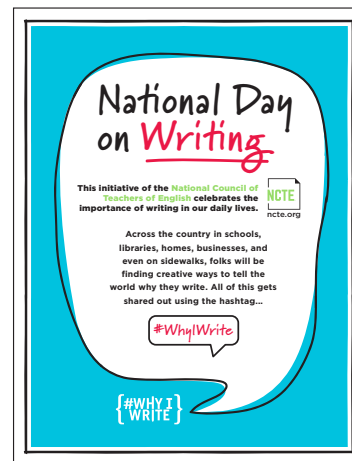
Welcome Poster: Put this at the entrance to your event.



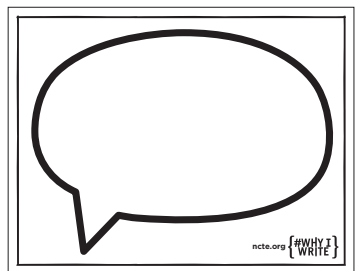
Tell Us Why You Write Poster: Place near the space where you will display the #WhyIWrite stories.



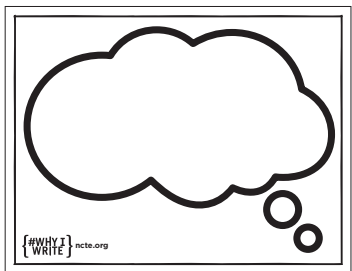
Social Media Sharing Poster: Place around the room to remind people about using the hashtag to share their work.



National Day on Writing Poster: Display to give participants more information about the national campaign.



#WhyIWrite Speech Bubbles



#WhyIWrite Thought Bubbles

TIPS THAT MAKE A BIG IMPACT

If you choose to capture #WhyIWrite stories using printed speech or thought bubbles, here are a few tips:

- Fill out a few bubbles in advance so people have models to follow.
- Use thick black markers for writing on the bubbles; they show up well in pictures.
- Find a wall or bulletin board for posting the stories. If you don't have a wall you can post on, lay them on tables.

WELCOME TO A CELEBRATION OF THE

National Day on Writing

{ #WHY I WRITE }

STEP INSIDE & SHARE YOUR WORDS!



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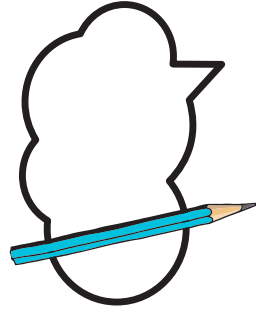
We want to
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We all have our own reasons for why we write, and many are essential to accomplishing our daily plans, not to mention achieving our dreams. When we collectively share our reasons for writing, we help illustrate its importance in our education and in our lives.

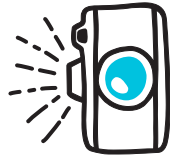


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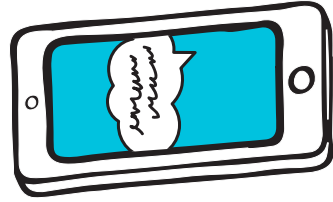
Snap + Share



1. Fill in your bubble.



2. Snap a picture of yourself with your bubble.



3. Share your bubble on social media using the hashtag **#WhyIWrite** to inspire others.



{#WHY I
WRITE}

National Day on Writing

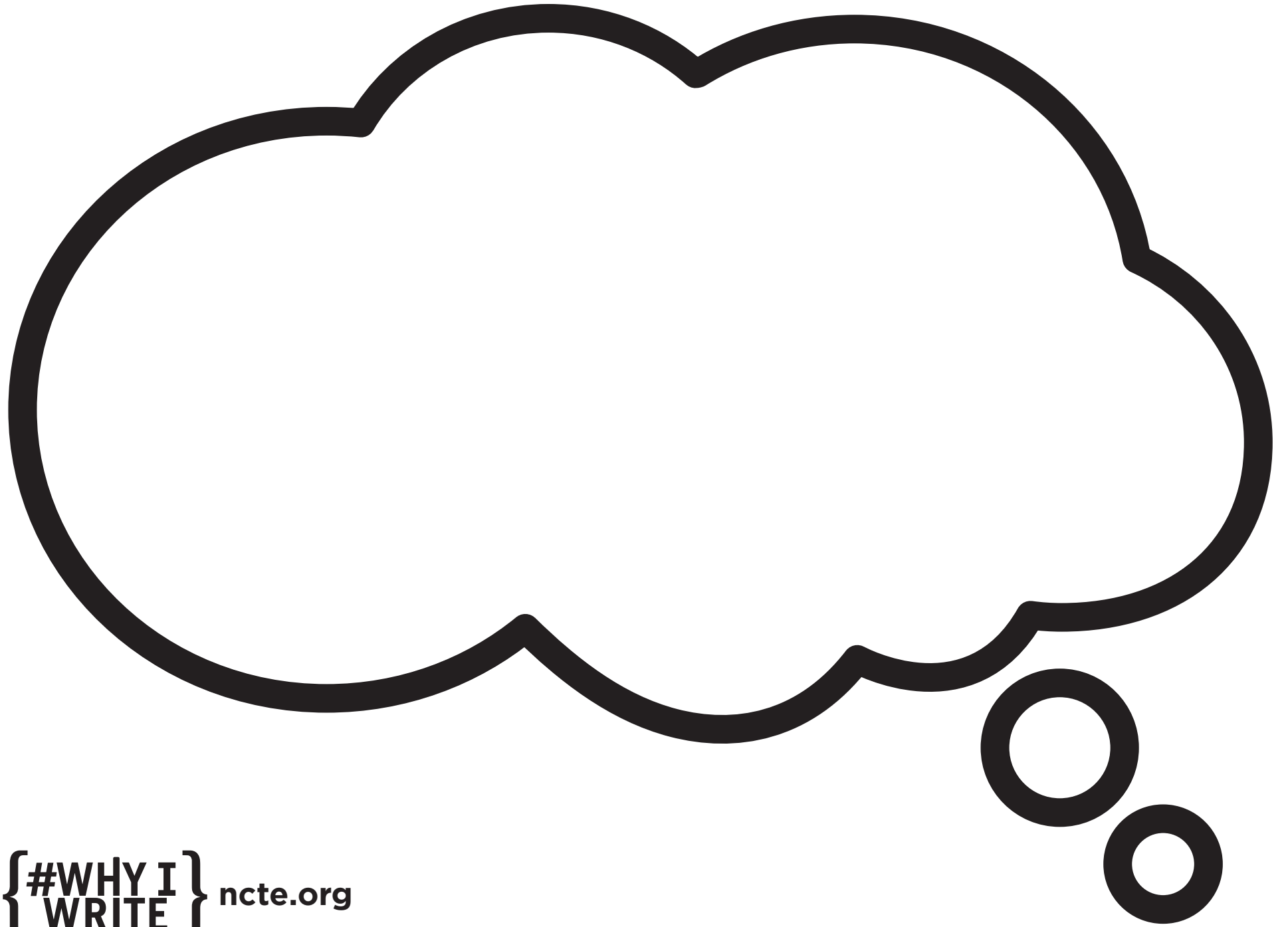
This initiative of the **National Council of Teachers of English** celebrates the importance of writing in our daily lives.



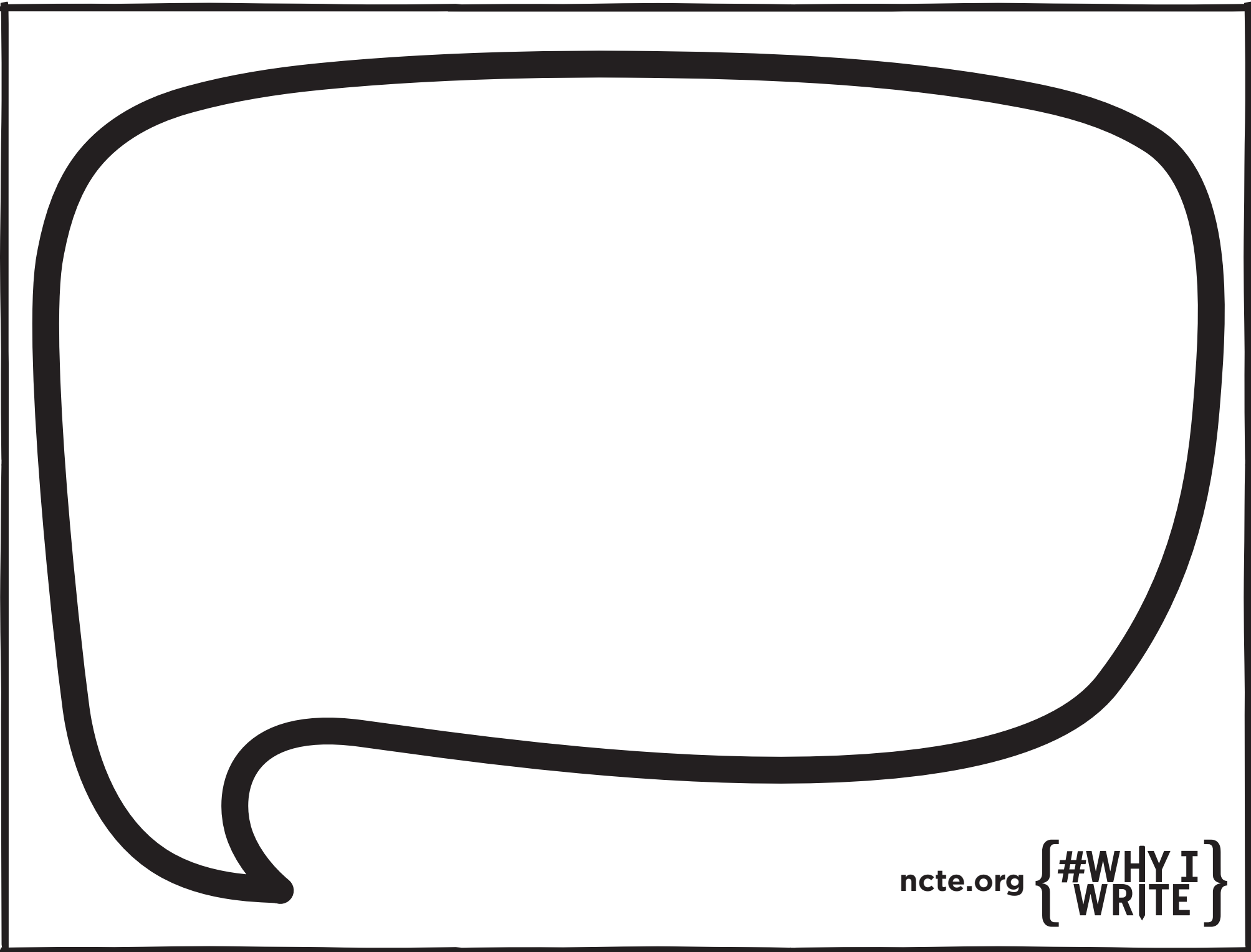
Across the country in schools, libraries, homes, businesses, and even on sidewalks, folks will be finding creative ways to tell the world why they write. All of this gets shared out using the hashtag...

#WhyIWrite

{#WHYI
WRITE}



{ #WHY I }
{ WRITE } ncte.org



ncte.org { #WHY I }
{ WRITE }



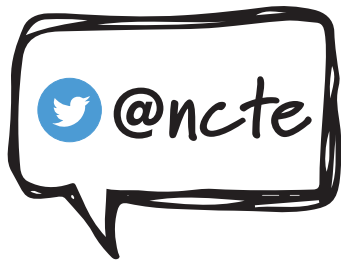
{ #WHY I }
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ncte.org { #WHY I }
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Each National Day on Writing Celebration is unique and wonderful, and we'd love to hear about yours!

Share your event with **NCTE** via our handles and the **#WhyIWrite** hashtag so we can amplify it on social media.



A special shout-out to Teacher2Teacher for guidance in shaping this toolkit.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH?

WE ARE THE PROFESSIONAL HOME FOR ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHERS.

Reading and writing are critical skills for full participation in society, and English and language arts teachers are the people who provide that lifeline for our students. Understanding the complex ways in which students learn to use language and supporting them in their growth requires a foundational belief in the capacity of all students to learn, a high level of skill, and a commitment to continual learning.

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH.

NCTE is the nation's most comprehensive literacy organization, supporting teachers across the preK-college spectrum. Through the expertise of its members, NCTE has served at the forefront of every major improvement in the teaching and learning of English and the language arts since 1911.

Under the leadership of **Executive Director Emily Kirkpatrick**, and in tandem with the commitment of our elected leaders, the organization is propelling this work and legacy forward through bold strategies designed to ensure innovations in literacy keep pace with evolving societal needs.



National Council of
Teachers of English

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