

**YALSA Board of Directors Meeting  
ALA Midwinter Meeting, Boston  
January 7 - 11, 2011**

**Topic:** YALSA Writing Award

**Background:** YALS Editor, Sarah Flowers, and YALSA Communications Specialist, Stephanie Kuenn, presented a draft writing award proposal for the Board to consider during their August 2010 meeting. The proposal has been revised, based on Board feedback. An updated draft is provided below.

**Action Required:** Action

**I. Proposed Name of the Award**

The proposed name is the YALSA Writing Award.

**II. Definition, Purpose and Criteria**

journals. Prizes will be given for a winning article in *Young Adult Library Services*, the *Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults*, the YALSA Blog, and The

The winning articles and blog posts will be selected on the basis of originality, timeliness, relevance to young adult librarianship, and quality of writing. The articles must address young adult library services or information regarding young adults that can be applied usefully to young adult library services.

Selection is based upon the quality and appropriateness of the submitted items. Items will be selected based on the following criteria: applicability to a variety of library settings, originality of ideas, persuasiveness of arguments, quality of writing, clarity of presentation, and contribution to the YALSA membership.

**III. Rationale**

The mission of the Young Adult Library Services Association is to advocate, promote and strengthen service to young adults as part of the continuum of total library service, and to support those who provide service to this population. This award will reward members for their work. At this time, YALS2012 1438 Tm()JTJE of s o-4(nnuu)3(tm)(a)JT

so that they can continue to be effective in their work. Additionally, increased submissions to our publications can help ensure that the journals and blogs retain a reputation for authority and quality.

By establishing the first YALSA award that recognizes excellence in writing, the division is creating another venue for acknowledging the contributions of its members, as well as creating additional value for a YALSA membership.

**IV. Number and Frequency of Award**

There will be one winner named for each publication each year: Best *YALS* article, best *JRLYA* article, best YALSA Blog post, and best The Hub post.

The calendar for *YALS* and *JRLYA* will be based on their volume year. Blog awards will be based on a Dec. 1 Nov. 30 award year to give the committee enough time to judge entries by the end of Midwinter Meeting.

**V. Award Administration and Jury**

The editor and blog manager of each publication will select five articles or posts that he or she believes to be the best articles of the year. Those five articles will be sent to a YALSA Writing Award Jury, who will select the four winners from the pool of 20.

**VI. Deadline for Nomination of Candidates**

Given the number of publications involved, editors and blog managers should forward their top five candidates to the jury chair by Dec. 1, allowing time for the committee to make their decision by the end of the Midwinter Meeting of the following calendar year.

**VII. Selection of Award**

Criteria for eligibility for all four categories:

- Author(s) must be a personal YALSA member(s) at the time the manuscript is submitted.
-

○

**Selection for YALSA Blog**

- Articles must have been published in the YALSA Blog during the Dec. 1 Nov. 30 calendar year.
- Articles must be no more than 1,000 words.

**Selection for The Hub: YALSA's Literature Blog**

- Articles must have been published in the The Hub during the Dec. 1 Nov. 30 calendar year.
- Articles must be no more than 1,000 words.

**VIII. Presentation of the Award**

The Award will be announced via press release at the conclusion of the Midwinter Meeting. The recipient(s) will be recognized at the annual YALSA Membership Meeting and

**IX. Form and/or Type of Award**

The winner

**XII. Evaluation of the Award Program**

At the end of the first two years, the award will be reevaluated by a task force appointed by the President and composed of YALSA members. Reevaluation is to include: discussion of any changes needed in policies, procedures, and criteria; determination of continuation of the award.