

FORUM

With this issue we inaugurate what we plan as a continuing feature of the Minnesota English Journal, a forum for the expression of opinions on matters of interest to teachers of English and the language arts. We hope the first entry in the Forum will provoke some replies, and we stand by to provide equal space in subsequent issues. We'd like to hear from you about modular scheduling, about the so-called text book revolution (Hillel Black's article in the SatEvePost of October 7 suggests to the general public that not much is going on in the texts used in high school English classes), about integrating speech and the English curriculum. How about teaching simplified or condensed versions of classics? Or getting more variety in the selection of texts? Any ideas about Donald K. Smith's proposal to search out ways to teach about discourse as inquiry? or Anna Lee Stensland's description of small schools' frustrations? Send us your polemics, lampoons, ironic commentaries, clarifications, modest proposals -- anything, short of invective.

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Minimum Requirements for Preparation of Teachers in Certain Teaching Fields

These requirements shall constitute minimum programs of preparation in the teaching fields to be set up by the colleges. Each prospective teacher shall have at least the amount of preparation indicated in each of the fields. The standard requirements for credits in professional education shall apply except where requirements are specifically mentioned. All new requirements are effective September 1, 1968 unless otherwise specified.

(c) English or Language Arts. The prospective teacher of English or Language Arts shall have:

(1) A teaching major in English or Language Arts of not less than 36 semester (54 quarter) hours to include academic instruction in language, literature, and composition beyond the freshman English requirement in (aa), (bb), and (cc) below, plus academic instruction in speech in each of the two following areas, (1) theory and practice of public address and (2) oral interpretation or play production and direction, in addition to such demonstration of speaking proficiency as the individual institution may normally consider appropriate. This major should include the following areas:

(aa) Expository writing

(bb) The nature of language, and the historical development and present structure of the English language, especially as used in the United States.

(cc) Development of English and American Literature; intensive study of at least one major English or American author; theory and practice of literary criticism; analysis and interpretation of the various literary genres; literature for adolescents; literature of the 20th century and of at least one other century.

OR:

(2) A teaching minor in English or Language Arts of at least 18 semester (27 quarter) hours, including academic instruction in language, literature and composition beyond the freshman English requirement, plus academic instruction in speech as defined in the major in English or Language Arts (c) (1).

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THOSE NEW REGULATIONS

by Gerald Thorson, St. Olaf College

I.

Before long the new regulations for the certification of teachers of English in the secondary schools of Minnesota will be in effect: the official date is September 1, 1968. To many this date is none too soon, for there are few who will deny the need for more realistic laws stipulating who is qualified to teach English in the classrooms in the state. Not everyone will agree that the regulations finally adopted by the State Board of Education are the best, or the only, ones for the present situation. Yet most will agree that this move by the Board is significant.

Essentially, these regulations will bring about an increase in the minimum preparation of the teaching major in English and they will put more English majors into the classrooms. By assuring better-trained teachers and more teachers trained specifically to teach English, these new regulations will upgrade the teaching of language, literature, and composition in the schools.

Perhaps the chief effect of these regulations will be to reduce the number of teachers of English in the state who have