

To Our Readers:

This issue of the Minnesota English Journal has seven stimulating articles and three reviews, all focused on strategies for teaching, ideas for selecting texts, and the ways we as teachers and writers fashion our public identities.

For the first time, I'm experimenting with some new features:

Best Brief Strategies: Quick descriptions of specific, practical teaching techniques or tricks that have succeeded in stimulating your students' enthusiasm and excellence in language and literature.

To Air is Human: Humorous or thought-provoking examples of misspellings or unexpected language use from student and faculty papers. We all enjoy sharing innocent linguistic slips and unintended puns. Send them to me with the grade level and anything else I need to create a context.

Book Reviews: As you see from the Announcements page, I'm actively recruiting your reviews of timely, helpful publications. There I've identified some NCTE publications that may interest you, but I'll take your suggestions eagerly. What new text book would you like to preview in print? What new commentary on pedagogy or politics has caught your attention? What new works of imaginative literature would you like to add to the teaching canon on a permanent or experimental basis? Call or e-mail your suggestion, and I'll see to it that you get the book so that MEJ readers can have your insights.

Student/Faculty Collaborations: In this issue MCTE president Liz Nist publishes an article in which she collaborates with her student Michelle Anderson to share perspectives on portfolio examinations. Meanwhile, Michael LaFleur, a graduate student in rhetoric and advisee of Sharon Cogdill from St. Cloud State University, includes a lively presentation regarding the changing roles of the popular communications media. I urge you to share your best collaborative efforts with the MEJ and at the same time encourage your best students with the attention that comes from publication.

Original Poetry: The fall issue will include some poetry by MCTE members. I'd enjoy reading yours.

Of course, I hope to continue the MEJ's tradition of publishing excellent, thought-provoking research articles of conventional length—10 to 25 pages typescript, MLA style. Let me know your suggestions for the journal.