

# **The Nota Bene Judging Process**

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Following the deadline for submissions, entries to the Nota Bene competition are sorted into the categories of essay, short story, poetry, or research paper. Statistics are noted, including the total number of entries, total entries from each region, total number of members submitting, and total members submitting from each region.

Copies of entries are then distributed to 12 judges, separated by category according to the judge's area of expertise. The first round of judging is an elimination round, in which a total of 100 entries are selected to be judged by the Nota Bene jury. Judges for the competition are volunteers with experience as professional educators, journalists, and writers.

All submissions to Nota Bene must be the original work of the author. If plagiarized work is submitted, all submissions by that member will be disqualified and the member's chapter advisor and college president will be notified of the plagiarism.

Round two of the judging process is conducted by the Nota Bene jury. As many as 30 entries total, in any combination of the categories, may be selected for publication. The member with the best overall entry is presented with the Citation Scholarship of \$1,000 and the writers of the next four top entries receive Reynolds Scholarships of \$500 each. These awards are endowed by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. They honor the memory of the late Donald W. Reynolds, founder of the Donrey Media Group.

Members whose works have been selected for publication will be notified by phone no later than June 1, 2006. After all winners have been notified a list of winning entries will be posted on the Phi Theta Kappa website.

The 2006 Nota Bene Anthology will be published in Fall 2006. Members whose entries have been selected to be published retain the rights to their work.

Entries for the 2007 edition of Nota Bene are due December 1, 2006.