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## Back Matter

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# Practical Issues for English Teachers

And two chances to write about them for the LAJM

## Fall 2015: Assessment

Deadline: August 15, 2015

In this era of measurement mania, assessment has become a highly politicized and controversial topic. For many teachers, the term evokes high stakes standardized testing, common assessments, and teacher evaluation. Despite these pressure however, many ELA teachers and professors develop meaningful, authentic ways to measure what their students learn. The LAJM is soliciting articles related to assessment and welcomes research, discussion of methods, reflective narratives, and original creative works. Authors may consider one or more of the following questions:

- What methods have you used to assessing student writing, reading, or literature study?
- How has technology changed the way in which you assess student work?
- How do you prepare students to succeed on high stakes standardized tests?
- How should teacher education programs assess its candidates?
- How has your department or school resisted or reshaped standardized curricula and accompanying assessments?

Please submit all manuscripts through Scholarworks ([scholarworks.gvsu.edu/lajm](http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/lajm)).

## Spring 2016: Professional Development

Deadline: March 15, 2016

In recent years, the Michigan Department of Education has significantly revised the rules governing recertification and salary increases, putting a new emphasis on district-provided professional development. This issue explores how these policy changes have affected the learning and teaching of English language arts educators. Authors may wish to examine:

- How does district-provided professional development align with NCTE guidelines?
- What are the roles of the university and graduate degree programs in professional development?
- What are the roles of for-profit companies and consultants in professional development?
- What role does an administrator's professional development play in supporting teachers who are making important career decisions?
- How does professional development improve student learning?
- What is the value of professional development opportunities for rural teachers that are situated specifically within a rural context?

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