

Central States Communication Association
Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group Bylaws

Article I. Name:

The name of the group shall be the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group.

Article II. Purpose

“Members of the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism interest group study theoretical, critical, and empirical questions related to the field of rhetorical studies and communication theory,” (NCA webpage). The interest group selects papers for the annual convention through a competitive process. In addition, the interest group awards a top faculty paper and a top student paper.

Article III. Membership

Membership in the interest group shall be open to all those who are members in good standing in the Central States Communication Association and who are interested in advancing the purpose of the interest group.

Article IV. Officers

The officers of the interest group shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. Each officer shall be elected by the members of the interest group to serve a one year term. The interest group may appoint other officers for whatever time period, as per the need, and shall decide on the process by which such additional officers are to be elected or appointed at the time a need arises.

The Chair of the interest group shall be the program planner for the annual convention and shall assign papers to readers who will make judgments about submitted papers and panels. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for assisting the program planner and succeeds to the office of Chair. The Secretary shall be responsible for taking the minutes of the group’s business meetings and submitting the annual minutes to the Executive Director.

1. Only individuals who are members of the Central States Communication Association and the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism interest group (as designated at the time of convention registration and membership renewal) are eligible for office.
2. Succession shall be automatic from Secretary to Vice-Chair to Chair during the business meeting held at the annual convention. The term for these offices shall be one year.
3. Reviewers shall be chosen each year at the discretion of the Chair.
4. The Secretary shall be elected at the annual business meeting and shall assume this position at the business meeting subsequent to which they were elected.

5. The Chair shall serve as the presiding officer of all Interest Group meetings. The Chair shall also serve as the program planner for the annual convention. The Chair shall also be responsible for carrying out any activities requested by the Association in support of the interest group.
6. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in planning the Interest Group's program offerings for the annual convention or any other activities as requested by the Chair or the Association. The Vice-Chair shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event of that officer's absence or incapacity.
7. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a written record of the business meetings of the interest group held at the annual meeting in the year following this officer's election. It shall also be the responsibility of the secretary to maintain a record of attendance. The secretary shall be responsible for transmitting these records to the Chair within a reasonable period following the business meeting of the interest group. The Secretary shall also be responsible for providing the membership with copies of minutes for approval at the subsequent business meeting.
8. Reviewers shall be responsible for making judgments about submitted papers and panels and any other activities requested by the Chair.

Article V. Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee of the interest group shall be composed of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Article VI. Meetings

1. An annual meeting will be held at the time and place designated by the Vice-President of CSCA at the annual convention. Additional business meetings may be scheduled if necessary by the interest group officers.
2. The number of members of the interest group present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum.
3. The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern the interest group in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws and any special rules of order the interest group may adopt.

Article VII. Voting

1. All voting shall be decided by a simple majority, with the exception of changes to the bylaws.

2. The election of officers shall be conducted by written ballot. Ballots shall be tabulated by at least two members of the interest group.
3. All voting matters other than the election of officers shall be conducted by voice support of for/yes, against/no, or abstain. The voting majority shall be determined by the Chair. Should any member present deem the voting majority to be unclear by voice support, a second vote shall be conducted using hand raising designation.

Article VIII. Awards

1. The top competitive paper of the interest group shall be designated the Karlyn Kohrs Campbell Award. The winner of this award shall be determined by the Chair, based on Reviewer evaluations. Recipients will receive \$50.00 and a certificate.
2. The top competitive student paper of the interest group shall be designated the David Zarefsky Award. The winner of this award shall be determined by the Chair, based on Reviewer evaluations. Recipients will receive \$50.00 and a certificate.
3. All awards will be presented at the annual business meeting.

Article IX. Amendment of Bylaws

1. Following their establishment, any amendments to the interest group bylaws can be proposed by any member of the Executive Committee or by a petition of five members of the interest group.
2. Interest group membership must be notified of any proposed amendments at least thirty days prior to the annual meeting. This notification is the responsibility of the Chair. So that the chair is provided with reasonable opportunity to notify membership, amendment petitions must be submitted to the Chair at least forty days prior to the annual meeting.
3. Amendments require the approval of two-thirds of the membership present at the annual meeting.