

December ???, 2013

Dear Teachers,

We would like to introduce you and your students to the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO, <http://www.naclo.cs.cmu.edu>).

NACLO is a pencil and paper contest in which students use analytical skills to solve puzzles in languages that they do not know. In the course of solving the puzzles, students learn something about the structure of human languages and how computers can process them. The contest introduces students to possible careers in linguistics, languages, and computer science.

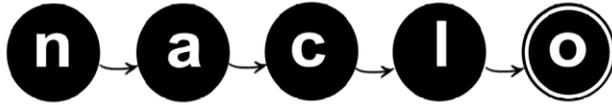
Who can participate in NACLO? The target audience for NACLO is students in 9th through 12th grade. However, middle school students often enjoy the contest as well, and occasionally win. All students are eligible as long as they are under 20 years old, do not yet have a high school diploma, and are not enrolled in a degree program at a college or university. NACLO has no prerequisites and no registration fee.

What kinds of students are interested in NACLO? Typical NACLO participants enjoy puzzles and languages. Any students who enjoy the sample puzzles on the attached flyers are good candidates for NACLO. Good places to start looking for NACLO participants are math classes, language classes, computer classes, and gifted programs.

NACLO timeline:

1. Registration is now open at <http://www.naclo.cs.cmu.edu>
2. The NACLO open round is on January 30, 2014. Details can be found on the web site.
3. The top 100 students from the open round will participate in an invitational round on March 13, 2014.
4. Approximately 15 students will be selected for training sessions via teleconference in April and May.
5. Eight students will be chosen to represent the US at the International Linguistics Olympiad (<http://www.ioling.org>) in Beijing in July 2014.

How to Prepare for NACLO: Students can practice with past exams from the NACLO web site. You can also contact naclo14org@umich.edu to find out whether a university near you can send a representative to your school for training sessions.



How to Participate: Please see the 2014 handbook at
<http://www.naclo.cs.cmu.edu/naclo2014handbook.doc>

If you would like a flyer and a poster for advertising, you can find them at
<http://clair.si.umich.edu/clair/clair/naclo/NACLO-flyer.pdf>
<http://clair.si.umich.edu/clair/clair/naclo/NACLO-poster-for-schools.pdf>

We hope that you and your students enjoy the contest!

Lori Levin
NACLO general co-chair

Dragomir Radev
NACLO program chair and head coach