

Guidelines to Judge Material Submitted for Active Member Status

The following guidelines may be used by branch accreditation committees to judge material submitted pursuant to Policy and Procedures, section VI—Membership, subsections D.3.a-c and D.4.a-b (determination of active status for self-publishers and writers who publish material under a self-owned imprint or electronically):

- A. Prima facie evidence of satisfying the requirement of “professional presentation” of writing style, style, and graphics, and “plans for distributing published materials” may be demonstrated by obtaining at least 15 points from the following point-weighted categories:
1. Book published (print, ebook, audio): 15 credits/points
 2. National Magazine/Newspaper/Literary Journal/trade magazine/Anthology (print or electronic): 10 points (article, essay, newspaper column poem)
 3. Screenplay or Stage play: 15 points (whether sold or produced)
 4. Anthology (Non-National): 5 points (points may accrue if published in a different edition)
 5. Blog/Guest Blog: 3 points (one-time credit of 3 points for having a personal blog; points may accrue for guest blogs)
 6. Contest Wins: points vary (may accrue for different contests)
 - i. National Writing Contest (e.g. *Writers Digest*) = 5 points
 - ii. Local/regional Writing Contest = 3 points
 - iii. Online ‘zine: 5 points
- B. Nothing in these guidelines prevents the application of Policy and Procedures, section VI—Membership, subsections D.3.d or D.4.c, which reserve the right of the branch Accreditation Committee to determine whether the quality of the publication meets the high standards of professional writing.