First Opinions, Second Reactions (FOSR) fills a void in the fields of education and children’s literature to meet the needs of K-12 teachers of Language Arts, parents and children, and public and school librarians. FOSR invites submissions, but also commissions particular scholars and writers to prepare articles for each issue.

Editors
Janet Alsup, Purdue University
Jill P. May, Purdue University

Advisory Board
Jacqueline Bach, Louisiana State University, USA
Steven Bickmore, Louisiana State University, USA
Crag Hill, University of Oklahoma, USA
Kenneth Kidd, University of Florida, USA
Michelle Martin, University of South Carolina, USA

Editorial Assistant
Ann Koci, Editorial Assistant

Published by Purdue University Press

Volume 8, Number 3
Submission Guidelines

First Opinions, Second Reactions is an open access online journal, published three times per year. FOSR provides a dynamic format that is continually revisited and updated by the editors. Unlike a blog, FOSR does not allow spontaneous additions to the site. Rather, first opinions based on careful analysis of books as contemporary literature published for a youthful audience are sought by the journal editors and edited to fit within a larger discussion concerning exemplary literature for young people. An individual asked to prepare a second reaction is usually given the initial expert’s review and is expected to share the book with an appropriate audience and describe their response.

FOSR actively seeks the opinions of experts in children’s literature who teach at the college level, work in educational institutions, and are writers themselves for “first opinions” on new books. These reviews, in turn, are enriched by “reactions” from others who are engaged in teaching and learning activities and have used the resource in a real setting. FOSR’s editors, in consultation with the journal’s advisory board, review and accept all materials for publication.

Readers of the journal are encouraged to submit a “Final Word” that gives new insight concerning a particular book reviewed. These reviews are selected for publication by the board and are published as space allows. Submissions should be double-spaced, using 12-point font, and include the following information:

1. Why should this book be reconsidered after reading the first two reviews in FOSR? Who would be the best audience for this book? How does your opinion add to or conflict the earlier ones?
2. What led you to this book?
3. What are your qualifications? (Send a current resume and a line of introduction)

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the latest edition of the MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing. Please send via email attachment in Microsoft Word format (.doc) and supply author contact information such as email address, mailing address, and phone.

Submit your proposal and a title that reflects the spirit of your work through the journal Web site, http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/fosr.
Contents

Editorial
U.S. Political History and Young Readers: Our Reviewers Share Their Insights
Jill P. May 4

First Opinions, Second Reactions

Lane Smith, Abe Lincoln’s Dream
  A First Opinion, Jennifer Brown 7
  A Second Reaction, George Hyden 9

Bob Raczka, Presidential Misadventures
  A First Opinion, Brad Burenheide 12
  A Second Reaction, Jericka Garland 15

Don Brown, Drowned City
  A First Opinion, Melissa Comer 17
  A Second Reaction, Alexis M. Porter 20

Mara Rockliff, Gingerbread for Liberty!
  A First Opinion, Lotta Larson 22
  A Second Reaction, Laura Strack 24

Albert Marrin, Thomas Paine
  A First Opinion, Adriana L. Medina 26
  A Second Reaction, Delphia S. Smith 28

Steve Sheinkin, Most Dangerous
  A First Opinion, Kathy Obenchain and Erin Vaughn 31
  A Second Reaction, Susan Tomlinson 34