Call for Papers, Panel Discussions
An academic conference inspired by the literary work of JK Rowling
Oct 20-22, 2011
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania

During Edinboro Potterfest
Submissions are welcome from undergrads, graduate students, and faculty and all proposals should be received by September 6, 2011. Papers or panel discussions can be on any topic or theme raised in the Harry Potter books (or films) and Tales of Beedle the Bard. Relevant issues could be discussed from any of the following perspectives: philosophy, sociology, history, religious studies, comparative literature, literary criticism, science, art, cinematic technique, music, moral development education, or teaching reading to kids.

Some examples of papers or panel discussions topics:
• Any metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, or logical issue raised in the stories
• The history of mythology and magical creatures
• The history of witch hunting and persecutions and relevance to today’s society
• The struggle between governing society by authoritarian vs democratic means
• The relationship between science and magic
• Teaching reading or moral virtue through the stories of JKR
• The ethical issues raised by the HP taboos on domination, torture, and killing
• The use of herbs, plants, and potions to improve the quality of life
• Prediction, divination, and prophecy: science versus superstition
• The Harry Potter saga as undermining Christian religion
• Harry Potter as supportive of Christianity
• The Harry Potter saga as undermining kid’s interest in science
• Prejudice, servitude, and slavery (as illustrated by the house elves)
• How can we discern the difference between what is real and what is only appearance?
• The necessity of discipline and practice to master any art or science
• How quidditch is similar to other sports and how quidditch might evolve into a more commonly played sport

Submissions should be accompanied by a 300 word maximum abstract and sent to: <cfowler@edinboro.edu> or by snail mail to Dr Corbin Fowler, Philosophy, Edinboro University of PA, Edinboro, PA 16444. (If these methods of delivery are not possible, submissions by Owl are also acceptable.)
Prizes will be awarded to the top undergraduate student submissions. Student papers of sufficient quality may be published in a special edition of either of two undergraduate journals published at Edinboro University.
The conference registration fee for faculty and non-student paper presentations, panel discussions and the Potterfest Banquet is $35. The fee for student presenters is $10 (the fee used mainly to help cover the cost of the banquet.)