Kern Council of Teachers of English (KCTE)
One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern
College Writing Contest

Essay Contest Guidelines

Entries must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 20, 2017.

Please carefully read and follow the submission guidelines below:

- To be eligible, you must be a matriculated student in a first-year experience or first-year composition class at Bakersfield College; California State University, Bakersfield; Cerro Coso College; Porterville College; or Taft College.
- By entering the contest, you confirm that the essay submission is your own original creation.
- A written essay is the only literary form accepted (no poems, plays, songs, etc.).
- Only one essay may be submitted by each contestant.
- Each essay should reflect the contestant's own interpretation and original thinking.
- Each essay should be given an original title.

Essay Specifications:

- The essay should be between 500 and 1000 words long, double-spaced.
- Use 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman or Arial).
- Use 1-inch margins all around.
- Do not justify the right margin.
- Pages should be sequentially numbered.
- Use MLA-style documentation when quoting from the book.
Essays will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Creativity – Does the essay reflect a creative and original perspective on the book?
2. Organization – Does the argument follow a logical and easily understood progression?
3. Clarity – Does the author use concise language?
4. Unity/Development of thought – Does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the book?
5. Grammar/Mechanics – Does the contestant use correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation?

Judging of Submissions:

- The essays will be judged by a committee of college and high school instructors.
- The winners will receive their awards during the author's visit on Wednesday, November 1, 2017.

Submitting Your Essay:

Entries must be received electronically by Dr. Emerson Case by 5 p.m. on Friday October 20, 2017 at the following email:

ecase@csub.edu

When submitting, please attach an electronic version of your essay to the email.

Include the following information in the body of your email message:

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- College or University attending
- Course name/number for which the essay was written
- Name of the instructor of the course
- Name of your essay