



Kern Council of Teachers of English (KCTE) One Book Project College Writing Contest based on *Whiskey Tender* by Deborah Jackson Taffa

For a copy of the prompt, visit www.csub.edu/english/one-book-project.shtml

Essay Contest Guidelines

Please carefully read and follow the submission guidelines below:

- To be eligible, you must be a matriculated student in a First-Year Experience, First-Year Composition, or First-Year Ethnic Studies class at Bakersfield College; California State University, Bakersfield; Cerro Coso College; Porterville College; or Taft College.
- By entering the contest, you affirm that the essay submission is your own original creation.
- All entries must be written without consultation with others. This includes, but is not limited to, no consultation with family members, friends, peer response groups, tutoring centers, writing centers, or artificial intelligence (AI).
- 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.

Essay Specifications:

- The essay should be between 500 and 1000 words long, typed, double-spaced, using 12-point font (preferably Times New Roman or Arial).
- Each essay should include an original title.
- Your essay itself should not include your name or any other identifiers.
- 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:

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

Essays will be judged by a committee of college instructors. Contest winners will be announced immediately before the author's keynote speech on Tuesday, October 21, 2025.

Submitting Your Essay:

Entries must be received electronically by Dr. Emerson Case by **5 p.m. on Friday, October 10, 2025** at the following email:

ecase@csu.edu

When submitting, please **attach** an electronic version of your essay (preferably in Word format) to your email. The essay itself should contain no identifying information.

Then, include the following information **in the body of your email message**:

- Your 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
- Title of your essay