



Sam Houston State University
2014 Bearkats Read to Succeed
Freshman Essay Contest
New Student Orientation Program



Purpose

This essay competition encourages and recognizes incoming freshmen who read and write about the 2013-2014 Bearkats Read to Succeed common reader, *Reader Player One*, by Ernest Cline.

Common Reading Essay Prompt:

At the heart of *Ready Player One* is a treasure hunt, full of puzzles to solve, villains to vanquish, and opponents to out-score. And yet unlike a lot of “fantasy” fiction, the book often feels quite realistic, as if it were set in our world, only a few decades into the future. Write an essay in which you connect Wade’s quest to themes or issues important to us today. Issues to consider may include, but are not limited to, the novel’s treatment of social networking, identity formation, environmental sustainability, or online education. Use specific examples from the book to support your analysis or interpretation.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all freshmen who enroll full-time (minimum 12 hours) at Sam Houston State University in the fall 2014 semester.

Prize

A scholarship valued at \$500 will be awarded to the freshman student submitting the winning essay. The winner will also be recognized at the author’s lunch with Ernest Cline on November 12, 2014.

Application

Essays must be submitted by 4:00 pm, Monday October 27, 2014, to wctr@shsu.edu. Electronic submissions are preferred. Submissions should be sent as email attachments (Microsoft Word documents, RTF files, or PDF files only). Submissions by traditional mail are also acceptable. Please mail submissions to:

Ann Theodori, Director
Sam Houston Writing Center
Campus Box 2333
Huntsville, TX 77341

Rules of the Contest

1. All applicants must be freshmen enrolled at Sam Houston State University full-time during the fall 2014 academic term.
2. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, on white, 8 ½” x 11” paper and free of any remarks or grade.
3. All submissions must include the submission cover form information on the next page. The essay itself must not contain the student’s name since essays will be evaluated anonymously. In other words, the cover form should be the first page of your essay submission. (The cover form will not count toward the word count in the essay.)
4. A student may submit only one entry.
5. Winners will be notified by the Sam Houston State University Writing Center.
6. There is no minimum length requirement. The maximum length is 2500 words.

Sponsored by the Sam Houston State University New Student Orientation Program
Office of the Vice President for Enrollment Management



SUBMISSION COVER FORM
The 2014 – 2015
Sam Houston State University
Barkats Read to Succeed
Fall 2014 Freshman Essay Contest

Entry due no later than 4 p.m. Monday October 27, 2014

Sam Houston State University Writing Center
Ann Theodori, Director
Sam Houston Writing Center
Campus Box 2333
Huntsville, TX 77341

Electronic email submissions: wctr@shsu.edu

Student's Full Name _____
Student's ID Number _____
Student Email Address _____
Telephone Number _____

I am submitting an original essay for the Barkats Read to Succeed
fall 2014 Freshman Essay Contest. I certify that this essay is my own work.
I understand that my essay will not be returned to me and may be used by
Sam Houston State University for publication in promotional materials.

Student Signature

Date

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