



Sam Houston State University
2016 Common Reader
Freshman Essay Contest
New Student Orientation Program

Purpose

This essay invites an opportunity to explore your connection to themes in the 2016-2017 SHSU Common Reader book.

Common Reader Essay Prompt

Themes in *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth* address timely, relevant, and cross-disciplinary topics affecting most everyone. The book themes encourage global awareness and provide you the opportunity to engage in critical thinking and research about the core messages of (1) being prepared, (2) positive thinking, (3) being humble, or (4) compelling evidence that we all need to take care of the precious life-giving planet we all share.

In an essay, connect examples of one of the above prominent book themes to your own experience, goals, or interests. Support your position by providing reasons why you chose a particular book theme and please properly cite relevant examples (quotes) from *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*. You are encouraged to seek out other readings and research relative to your topic.

Eligibility

The contest is open to all new first-time freshmen who enroll full-time (minimum 12 hours) at Sam Houston State University in the fall 2016 semester who have read the book.

Prize

A scholarship valued at \$500 will be awarded to the freshman student submitting the winning essay. The winner will also be invited to lunch with Col. Chris Hadfield on November 1, 2016.

Application

Essays must be submitted by 4:00 pm, Monday October 17, 2016, to asc@shsu.edu. **Electronic submissions are preferred** and must be sent as email attachments (Microsoft Word documents, RTF files, or PDF files only). Submissions by traditional mail are also acceptable. Mailed submissions should be sent to:

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

Rules of the Contest

1. All applicants must be new first-time freshmen enrolled at Sam Houston State University full-time during the fall 2016 academic term.
2. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, on white, 8 1/2" x 11" paper and free of any remarks or grade.
3. All submissions must include the submission cover form with complete information on the next page. **The essay itself must not contain the student's name since essays will be evaluated anonymously.** The cover form with identifying student information should be the first page of your submission followed by the essay with no identifying information. (The cover form will not count toward the word count for the essay.)
4. A student may submit only one entry.
5. Winners will be notified by the Sam Houston State University Student Success Initiatives Office.
6. There is no minimum length requirement. The maximum length is 2500 words.



SUBMISSION COVER FORM
The 2016 – 2017
Sam Houston State University
Common Reading
Fall 2016 Freshman Essay Contest

Entry due no later than 4 p.m. Monday October 17, 2016

Electronic email submissions (preferred) to: asc@shsu.edu

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

Student's Full Name _____

Student's ID Number _____

Student Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

I am submitting an original essay for the SHSU Common Reading
fall 2016 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