



## Sam Houston State University Common Reader Spring 2019 Poetry/Lyric Contest

### Purpose

This poetry/lyric competition encourages and recognizes SHSU students who read and write about the 2018-2019 SHSU Common Reader, *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism* by SHSU alumnus, Mr. Dan Rather.

### Poem/Lyric Topic

Using *What Unites Us: Reflections on Patriotism* quote from Dan Rather below, write a poem or lyric that illustrates or explores your interest or experience with one or more of these central themes.

Inclusion, not assimilation, should be the key concept in seeking, ever seeking, a more perfect national union. Our own history has shown that we are stronger as a mosaic than a melting pot. Our nation is bound together more by ideals than by blood or land, and inclusion is in our cultural DNA. We should feel proud that we are not all the same, and that we can share our differences under the common umbrella of humanity. (pp. 89-90)

### Eligibility

The contest is open to students who enroll full-time (minimum 12 hours) at Sam Houston State University in the spring 2019 semester who have read the SHSU Common Reader book.

### Prize

Scholarships valued at \$250 each will be awarded to the top three winning poems/lyrics.

### Application

Poems/Lyrics must be submitted by 4:00 pm, Monday, March 4, 2019, to [SSI@SHSU.edu](mailto:SSI@SHSU.edu). **Electronic submissions are required** and must be sent as email attachments (Microsoft Word documents, RTF files, or PDF files only).

### Rules of the Contest

1. All applicants must be students enrolled at Sam Houston State University full-time (minimum 12 hours) during the spring academic term.
2. All poems/lyrics must be typed 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 poem/lyric itself must not contain the student's name since poems/lyrics will be evaluated anonymously.** The cover form should be the first page of your poetry/lyric submission and does not count toward the word count in the poem/lyric. When submitting by email, please include all of the information on the cover sheet and the statement of authenticity in the body of your email.
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 200 words.

Sponsored by the Sam Houston State University Student Success Initiatives  
Division of Academic Affairs

SUBMISSION COVER FORM

Sam Houston State University

Common Reader

Spring 2019 Poetry/Lyric Contest



Electronic due no later than 4 p.m. Monday, March 4, 2019

To: Poetry/Lyric Contest Director

**Electronic email submissions:** [ssi@shsu.edu](mailto:ssi@shsu.edu)

Student's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's ID Number \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

I am submitting an original poem/lyric for the SHSU Common Reader  
Spring 2019 Poetry/Lyric Contest. I certify that this poem/lyric is my own work.  
I understand that my poem/lyric 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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Division of Academic Affairs