



**Sam Houston State University**  
**Bearkats Read to Succeed**  
*Ready Player One*  
**Fan Fiction Contest**



**PURPOSE**

This fan fiction contest encourages undergraduate and graduate students at Sam Houston State University to engage both critically and creatively with the 2014-15 Bearkats Read to Succeed common reader, *Ready Player One*, by Ernest Cline.

**FAN FICTION**

For this contest, students will write a work of short fiction (no more than 8,000 words) that qualifies as “fan fiction.” To be considered fan fiction, it must incorporate characters, settings, contexts, and/or ideas from *Ready Player One*, extending, critiquing, or redirecting the vision of the novel (or some aspect of the novel). The most successful fan fiction will not merely repeat the characters and ideas of the original novel, but will permit the reader to see those characters and ideas from another perspective. The student’s story should engage with one of the social, cultural, environmental, or political issues that the book introduces. Additionally, the story will demonstrate a strong voice, a clear command of language, well-developed characters, and an engaging plot.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The contest is open to all undergraduate and graduate students enrolled full-time (minimum 12 hours) at Sam Houston State University for the fall 2014 semester.

**PRIZE**

A scholarship valued at \$250 will be awarded to the author of the winning story. The winner will also be recognized at the author’s lunch with Ernest Cline on November 12, 2014. Members of the Department of English, including creative writing faculty, will serve as judges.

**APPLICATION**

Stories must be received by 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 20, 2014. Electronic submissions are preferred. Please email submissions to [cwmfa@shsu.edu](mailto:cwmfa@shsu.edu). Stories must be double-spaced and submitted in one of the following formats: docx, doc, pdf, rtf. Submissions by traditional mail are also acceptable. Please mail submissions to:

Dr. Scott Kaukonen  
*Ready Player One* Fan Fiction Contest  
Department of English  
Box 2146  
Huntsville, TX 77341

## **RULES**

1. All authors must be students enrolled full-time at Sam Houston State University during the fall 2014 academic term.
2. All stories must be typed, doubled-spaced, on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and free of any remarks or grade.
3. All submissions must include a title page with the following information: author's name, student ID number, phone number, and email address, as well the title of the submission and the story's word count. The author's name should appear nowhere else on the submission.
4. A student may submit only one entry.
5. The winner will be notified by the Sam Houston State University Department of English.
6. The maximum length of a story is 8,000 words.