



Sam Houston State University
2015 Common Reader
Freshman Essay Contest
New Student Orientation Program

Purpose

This essay competition encourages and recognizes incoming freshmen who read and write about the 2014-2015 SHSU Common Reader, *Enrique's Journey* by Sonia Nazario. Themes in *Enrique's Journey* address timely, relevant, and cross-disciplinary topics affecting our students. *Enrique's Journey* encourages global awareness and provides students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to engage in critical thinking about survival, family, diversity, perseverance, loss, and hope.

Common Reading Essay Prompt

In the "Prologue" to *Enrique's Journey*, Sonia Nazario shared that "the migrants I spent time with gave me an invaluable gift. They reminded me of the value of what I have. They taught me that people are willing to die in their quest to obtain it" (xxv).

What is it that the migrants value in this story? What are they willing to sacrifice to get it? How does learning about their values and sacrifices affect your attitudes? Support your position by providing reasons and examples from *Enrique's Journey*. Additionally, you may include other readings, studies, your observations, and/or your own experience.

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 2015 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 Sonia Nazario and be recognized on November 17 & 18, 2015.

Application

Essays must be submitted by 4:00 pm, Monday November 2, 2015, 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 2015 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.** 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 2015 – 2016
Sam Houston State University
Common Reading
Fall 2015 Freshman Essay Contest

Entry due no later than 4 p.m. Monday November 2, 2015

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 2015 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