



Sponsored by the Sam Houston State University Student Success Initiatives Office

## Sam Houston State University Spring 2016 Common Reader Essay Contest

### Purpose

This essay competition encourages and recognizes students who read and write about the 2015-2016 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 undergraduate students who enroll full-time (minimum 12 hours) at Sam Houston State University in the spring 2016 semester who have read the book.

### Prize

One scholarship valued at \$250 will be awarded to a freshman student submitting a winning essay.

One scholarship valued at \$250 will be awarded to a sophomore, junior, or senior student submitting a winning essay

### Application

Essays must be submitted by 4:00 pm, Friday April 1, 2016, to [asc@shsu.edu](mailto: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 undergraduate students enrolled at Sam Houston State University full-time during the Spring 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 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  
Sam Houston State University  
Spring 2016 Common Reading  
Essay Contest

Entry due no later than 4 p.m. Friday, April 1, 2016

Electronic email submissions (preferred) to: [asc@shsu.edu](mailto: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 Reader  
Spring 2016 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