



## TOPICS & IDEAS FOR THE 2015 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Choose from one of the three topics listed below:

These topics and ideas are aligned with California's *Common Core* "Anchor Standards" for K-12 reading and writing.

**Topic 1:** Common Core Writing Anchor Standard 2 - Write informative, explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts and information. . .

San Diego will soon celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition hosted by San Diego and held in what would eventually become our world famous Balboa Park. Using your public and/or school library do research on the exposition and the park.

Did you know that the San Diego Public Library was located in Balboa Park (Food and Beverage Bldg) while a then "new" library was being built in 1952 to 1954?

Write an essay reporting what you discover about Balboa Park.

Grade 4, 8, 10

**Topic 2:** Common Core Writing Anchor Standard 9 - Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

You may choose our most popular regular topic for your essay:

"If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? ...Why

Grades 4, 8 & 10

**Topic 3:** Common Core Writing Anchor Standard 9 - Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

In support of the 2014 "One book, One San Diego" program, read this year's chosen book titled *Monstress* by Lysley Tenorio, a collection of short stories rooted in Philippine culture. Write an essay telling how this book affected you, what you think of the author's writing style, and whether you would or would not recommend it to others. OR:

Do you have a favorite book of short stories? You may write your essay about your favorite, being sure to cover how this book affected you, what you think of the writing style, and why you would recommend it to others.

Grades 8 & 10

"MONSTRESS, a debut collection of short stories by Lysley Tenorio, is a gift: a chance to understand what those Filipino émigrés might have been saying about their lives, loves, disappointments and sense of being the other...Don't expect happy endings, but do expect to be moved, dazzled and surprised." (Washington Independent Review of Books) Similar

"Tenorio writes persuasively about otherness and connection... [his] characters are zany, witty, and beautifully drawn... Ultimately, though, it is the unassuming pitch of these stories that makes them so exquisitely deadly." (Slate, The XX Factor)

QUESTIONS about *Monstress*:

One book, One San Diego: <http://www.kpbs.org/one-book>

Essay contest:

Wendy Gay: [p hlwen@pacbell.net](mailto:p hlwen@pacbell.net)

Carleen Hemric: [achemric@cox.net](mailto:achemric@cox.net)

Marian Day: [mday1@cox.net](mailto:mday1@cox.net)