



TOPICS & IDEAS FOR THE 2016 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest this year offers two topics; choose from one of these topics for your Essay:

Topic 1:

Common Core Writing Anchor Standard 2 - Write informative, explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts and information. In its ninth year, One Book, One San Diego (<http://www.kpbs.org/one-book>) is a community reading program sponsored by, among others, KPBS, San Diego Public Library, San Diego Unified School District Librarians and others.

The purpose of this program is to bring our community together in the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book during the same period of time. The program also encourages the discussion of the many universal themes raised in the selected books each year, and the examination of how these ideas connect us with others in our daily lives and in our communities.

For this Essay Contest, libraries and schools in the city of San Diego will encourage students to read and discover the power of books and joy of reading through the titles chosen by One Book, One San Diego:

The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón. (Adult-grade ten)

The Dumbest Idea Ever! by Jimmy Gownley. (Young Adult-grade eight)

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore by William Joyce. (grade four)

All three titles address common themes about the power of books and the excitement and wonder of reading. What do these themes mean to you?

Topic 2:

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

Over the 19 years of this Essay Contest the most popular topic selected by students, regardless of their grade level, to write about has been:

“If all the books in the world were about to disappear, but you could save one, what would it be? What book would you choose? Why?”

This topic allows students to remember and write about that cherished long ago story someone read to them or the book they discovered last week and loved!

Which ever you choose, Topic 1 or Topic 2, be sure to express the passion you felt for this book!

Essay Contest questions:

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