

TOPICS & IDEAS

FOR THE 2017 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

The Essay Contest this year offers three topics; choose one of these topics to write about for your Essay:

Topic 1:

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

One Book, One San Diego (<http://www.kpbs.org/one-book>), now in its tenth year, is a community reading program sponsored by KPBS, and supported by the San Diego Public Library, San Diego Unified School District Librarians and our community as a whole.

The purpose of this program is to bring children, teens, and adults together in the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book during the same period of time. One Book, One San Diego encourages the discussion of the many universal themes raised in the selected book and the examination of how these ideas connect us with others in our community and in our daily lives.

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 the joy of reading through the title chosen by One Book, One San Diego; this year's title is:

***Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire. (grade Eight or Ten)**

Topic 2:

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

San Diego is celebrating the 100th anniversary of our world famous ZOO this year.

Using a public library or your school library and a computer do some research on the San Diego Zoo. Write an essay reporting what you discover about the Zoo; for example, how did it start? who was the zoo's founder? who was "The Zoo Lady"? AND how does the zoo benefit our community!

Topic 3:

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

Over the 20 years of this Essay Contest, the topic students, regardless of their grade level, have selected most often 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? Why?"

Topic 3 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!

Whichever you choose, Topic 1, 2 or 3, be sure to express the passion you felt for this topic!

Essay Contest questions:

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