



The Cambridge University Press Adult Level Student Essay Writing Contest

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California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages proudly presents the 2016 Adult-Level Student Essay Contest for ESOL students in adult education and non-credit community college programs throughout the state of California.

“CATESOL at 50: Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future”

is the theme of the 2019 Annual CATESOL conference to be held in San Jose, California, October 4, 2019. In keeping with the conference theme, the writing prompt for the annual student essay contest is:

Our past makes us who we are today. And it helps us decide what we want to do in the future. How is this true for you?

What decisions or people in your past have inspired who you are today and your goals for the future?

Essays must be typed, double-spaced, no more than 500 words and no fewer than 300 words (unless the submission is from beginning ESL students). The following information must be included at the top of the essay:

- o teacher's name
- o school/agency & address
- o teacher's phone number
- o teacher's email address
- o student's name and ESL level
- o student's address and phone number
- o student's email address

Email essays as attachments (saved as Microsoft Word or PDF files) as attachments to: by agency or by teacher to:

Martha Clayton
CATESOL Adult Level Awards Coordinator
claytoma@laccd.edu

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS Thursday, Aug. 1

The winning essay will be chosen based on its adherence to the conference theme, essay prompt and rubric. Students of all ESL levels are encouraged to participate and expectations/rubric will be level appropriate.

The author of the winning essay will receive a prize of educational texts worth \$100 contributed by Cambridge University Press Publishers.

Questions? Email Martha Clayton: claytoma@laccd.edu



CATESOL 2019 Conference theme

"CATESOL at 50: Honoring the Past and Inspiring the Future"

ESSAY WRITING PROMPT:

Our past makes us who we are today. And it helps us decide what we want to do in the future. How is this true for you?

What decisions or people in your past have inspired who you are today and your goals for the future?

BEGINNERS: Make a timeline of big events in your life. Include pictures and sentences about important past life experiences and future goals.

We invite students from all levels to participate and will score accordingly.

Rubric 1 for Intermediate and Advanced Students

CRITERIA	3	2	1	No score
"Honoring the Past and Inspiring the Future"	Matches theme and/or prompt 100% (1 extra point possible)	Mostly matches theme and prompt	Touches on theme and prompt	no relationship to theme
Content	high interest (1 extra point possible)	interesting	somewhat interesting	low interest
Voice	author's voice is throughout the essay	author's voice is present in many sections	author's voice is strong in one or two sentences	author's voice is not apparent
Mechanics	Essay has no errors or one or two errors that reflect the learners' level	Essay has a few errors that reflect the learners' level	Essay has numerous errors that are below the level of the learner.	Essay is riddled with errors
Word Choice	word choice is sophisticated	Essay word choice is at level	Essay word choice is at level most of the time.	Essay word choice is often below level
Sentence Structure	Sentence structure reflects the learners' level	Sentence structure mostly reflects the learners' level	Sentence structure reflects the learners' level at times	Sentence structure is at lower level

SCORE ___/20

Student # or name: _____ Student ESL Level _____

Rubric 2 for Beginner Students

CRITERIA	3 	2 	1 	No score (not yet) 
<i>"Honoring the Past and Inspiring the Future"</i>	Matches theme and/or prompt 100% +1 point	Mostly matches theme and prompt	Touches on theme and prompt	no relationship to theme
Content	5+ events (1 extra point possible)	4 events	2-3 events	0-1 events
Vocabulary	Word choice is varied, precise, and sophisticated	Word choice is at level	Word choice is at level most of the time	Many unintelligible words
Accuracy	Sentences have no errors or one or two errors that reflect the learners' level	Sentences have a few errors that reflect the learners' level	Sentences have numerous errors that are below the level of the learner	Sentences have many errors that impede understanding
Visual Aids	5+ pictures, photos, or other graphics (1 extra point possible)	4 pictures, photos, or other graphics	2-3 pictures, photos, or other graphics	0-1 pictures, photos, or other graphics
Organization & Creativity	Corresponding sentences and visuals are well-connected and well-placed on page	Corresponding sentences and visuals are mostly connected and well-placed on page	Sentences and pictures rarely go together to support a clear idea on the page	Sentences and pictures are not connected or organized on the page

SCORE ___/20

Student # or name: _____ Student ESL Level _____