



# Community College Student Essay Contest

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*CATESOL proudly presents the 2021 Community College Student Essay Contest for ESL students in credit and noncredit community college programs throughout the state of California.*

## Writing Guidelines

1. Write an essay of 500-1000 words.
2. Type and double-space your essay.
3. Use 12-point, Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins.
4. Include an original title.
5. At the end of the essay, include your name, ESL level, phone number, and email address. Also include your ESL instructor's name, phone number, and email address.
6. By entering the contest, you confirm that the essay submission is your own original creation.
7. Email your essay as a PDF file to [catesolawards@gmail.com](mailto:catesolawards@gmail.com) by 8/01/2021.

## Essay Prompt

As we have transitioned to a “new normal” during this pandemic, you’ve likely come across someone who has helped you adjust to distance learning, shown you a random act of kindness, or inspired you to remain positive during this trying time.

Write an essay about someone who has inspired you during this pandemic. This person can be someone you know personally (like a family member or a friend), or someone else such as a healthcare worker, a celebrity you look up to, or even a stranger who made an impact on you.

What valuable lessons has this person taught you this past year? What are some qualities about this person that you admire? Why are they your inspiration?

Essays will be judged using the following criteria: Adherence to essay prompt, creativity and depth of reflection, organization & format, and vocabulary, grammar & mechanics.

Please email [catesolawards@gmail.com](mailto:catesolawards@gmail.com) with any questions.

The writer of the winning essay will receive \$200 worth of books from Townsend Press.



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*Helping teachers help students learn*

## \CATESOL 2021 Community College Student Essay Contest Rubric

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**Essay Prompt:** As we have transitioned to a “new normal” during this pandemic, you’ve likely come across someone who has helped you adjust to distance learning, shown you a random act of kindness, or inspired you to remain positive during this trying time. Write an essay about **someone who has inspired you during this pandemic**. This person can be someone you know personally (like a family member or a friend), or someone else such as a healthcare worker, a celebrity you look up to, or even a stranger who made an impact on you. What valuable lessons has this person taught you this past year? What are some qualities about this person that you admire? Why are they your inspiration?

Criteria	5	3	1	0
<b>Adherence to Essay Prompt</b>	Essay addresses the prompt effectively and does not stray from the main message	Essay generally addresses the prompt; may stray slightly from the main message	Essay minimally addresses the prompt and strays from the main message	Essay does not address the prompt
<b>Creativity</b>	Essay reflects a highly creative and original perspective that demonstrates deep reflection on the topic	Essay reflects a creative and original perspective; some reflection on the topic is demonstrated	Essay reflects a minimal creative and original perspective; little reflection on the topic is demonstrated	Essay does not reflect a creative and original perspective
<b>Organization/Format</b>	Essay is very well-organized with a sound introduction and conclusion; effective use of transitions; correct essay formatting; 500-1000 words	Essay is somewhat organized and includes an introduction and conclusion; use of transitions; correct essay formatting; may be slightly less than 500 or more than 1000 words	Essay lacks organization; introduction and conclusions require inference to identify; formatting is partially correct; may be less than 500 or more than 1000 words	Essay lacks organization and is incomprehensible; transitions are incorrectly used or not present; formatting is incorrect; may be significantly less than 500 or more than 1000 words
<b>Grammar/Mechanics</b>	Few or no grammatical errors present; few or no errors with spelling, capitalization, and punctuation	Some grammatical errors that do not interfere with understanding; some errors in spelling, capitalization, and punctuation that may distract the reader	Consistent grammatical errors that require the reader to infer meaning; major spelling, capitalization, and/or punctuation errors	Grammatical/mechanical errors make the writing incomprehensible
<b>Word Choice, Sentence Variety &amp; Structure</b>	Essay word choice is sophisticated; sentence structure is varied	Essay word choice is accurate; sentence variety is fairly limited	Essay word choice is somewhat accurate; simple sentence structure is used throughout	Essay word choice is often inaccurate; incorrect sentence structure used throughout

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 25