

Common Reading Program 2016 Essay Competition Writing Prompts

The Common Reading Program is sponsoring an essay competition in conjunction with the Common Reading book, *The Good Food Revolution*, by Will Allen. Four scholarship prizes will be awarded for the Spring semester 2017:

First Prize: \$500 scholarship

Second Prize: \$250 scholarship

Third and Fourth Prizes: \$125 scholarships

Eligibility:

Student must be a first-semester SCSU or SCTCC Connections student this fall, continuing on for their studies at SCSU in Spring 2017, and they must submit an essay to the Common Reading Program Essay Competition according to the guidelines laid out herein.

Students may choose 1 of the prompts below:

- A. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Insecurity can be defined as “a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.” Will Allen recognized a systemic problem within the community where he established Will’s Roadside Farm Market and made a plan to confront it. Where, and how, is food insecurity visible in your community? In detail, and taking concrete lessons learned from *The Good Food Revolution*, describe how you would attempt to thwart food insecurity in your community. How could your plan lead to greater social change?¹
- B. “Planned Happenstance” is a theory of how chance events often play a role in shaping a person’s career and life. Using concrete examples from *The Good Food Revolution* discuss how Will Allen’s career and life is a good example of this concept of planned happenstance. What are 2-3 lessons from his story that can help prepare students for life and work in the 21st century?

To be eligible to win, essays must respond to all aspects of the prompt chosen from the above options.

Selected essays will demonstrate the following standards: Essays should be a maximum of 5 pages, double spaced. They must be free of spelling and grammatical errors. They must be well-written and organized. This includes proper citation of resources used. Excellent essays will demonstrate a clear engagement with the common reading book and display evidence of a thoughtful engagement with various themes introduced by the book.

Submission details:

Submissions must adhere to the following:

- **Four** copies of the essay must be submitted for **blind review**. **Blind review** means that each copy of the essay should have a title, but be free of any and all identifying information (i.e., name, tech ID number, and so on should NOT appear on the actual essays themselves).
- Your submission **should include a separate cover sheet** which includes your personal information: Name, Tech ID Number, HuskyNet email address, Local phone number, and Essay Title.
- Submissions should be sent via campus mail or hand delivered to the Common Reading Program, Centennial Hall 208. If sent via campus mail, please allow ample time for your essay to arrive no later than Monday, November 7.

Submission deadline is: Monday, November 7, at 4 PM in Centennial Hall 208.

Late submissions will not be considered.

¹ For more information on Food Insecurity, including levels and statistics, visit the United States Department of Agriculture at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-us/definitions-of-food-security.aspx>.