



# NORTHWESTERN STATE

*Louisiana Folklife Center*

February 14, 2017

Dear Principal or Secondary School Guidance Counselor:

This year the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University will be sponsoring the 9<sup>th</sup> annual NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest. Students wishing to enter the contest will write a 1,000-2,500 word essay addressing the prompt: "Louisiana Landscapes." Students are invited to write about a place in Louisiana that has special meaning for them. All places in Louisiana are appropriate, including homes, schools, churches, neighborhoods, parks, historic sites, museums, bodies of water, landmarks, and regions. Personal reflections and experiences are perfectly valid as part of the essay content. Essays may be in narrative form if the student so chooses. The essay contest is open to all Louisiana students in grades 9-12.

In addition to the three winners being awarded cash prizes and a \$200/per semester NSU scholarship with a value up to \$1600 if they attend NSU for four years (this award is in addition to other scholarship awards that the student may receive from Northwestern State University), the three winning essays will be published in the *Louisiana Folklife Journal*, an academic journal produced by the Louisiana Folklife Center. Contest winners will also be invited to present their essay at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Louisiana Studies Conference held in Natchitoches, Louisiana on Saturday September 23, 2017.

Please encourage your students to participate in this great opportunity for publication, and distribute this information to all of your humanities and social science teachers, as well as any other Louisiana secondary school educators you deem fit. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me by email at [rasmussens@nsula.edu](mailto:rasmussens@nsula.edu) or by phone at (318) 357-4332.

The deadline for entries is May 19, 2017. We look forward to reading all of the wonderful essays by your students! Thank you for your efforts in making this opportunity available to your students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Essay Contest Co-chair  
Director, Louisiana Folklife Center  
Associate Professor of English  
Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
NSU Box 3663  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
(318) 357-4332  
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DEDICATED TO ONE GOAL. **YOURS.**<sup>™</sup>

# 2017 NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest

**The 2017 Contest theme is “Louisiana Landscapes.” Students are invited to write about a place in Louisiana that has special meaning for them. All places in Louisiana are appropriate, including homes, schools, churches, neighborhoods, parks, historic sites, museums, bodies of water, landmarks, and regions. Personal reflections and experiences are perfectly valid as part of the essay content. Essays may be in narrative form if the student so chooses.**

Length: Approximately 1,000 – 2,500 words. All entries should have titles and should be typed (double spaced, 12-point font, standard margins). **Deadline: May 19, 2017.**

The essay contest is open to all Louisiana students in grades 9-12 regardless of type of school institution, including students in all types of private educational environments, as well as home schooled students.

All entries should be sent as e-mail attachments to Dr. Shane Rasmussen, [rasmussens@nsula.edu](mailto:rasmussens@nsula.edu) or by mail to the Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497. Please include a separate cover page with your name, school affiliation, mailing address, phone number, e-mail address, and the title of your entry. “2017 NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest” should be the subject line of e-mails. Prize winning students will be notified by July 15, 2017.

The prizes for the contest winners are: 1<sup>st</sup> place – \$150; 2<sup>nd</sup> place – \$100; and 3<sup>rd</sup> place – \$50. In addition, essay contest winners will receive a \$200/per semester NSU scholarship with a value up to \$1600 if they attend NSU for four years. This award is in addition to other scholarship awards that the student may receive from Northwestern State University. To be eligible, essay winners must submit a complete scholarship application packet to the university by December 1 of their Senior Year. Winners must also have at least a 20 ACT composite or 950 on the SAT, as well as at least a 2.0 GPA to be eligible. Essay winners also need to submit proof of the award.

The three prize winning entries will be published in the *Louisiana Folklife Journal*, an academic journal produced by the Louisiana Folklife Center, Northwestern State University, General Editor, Dr. Shane Rasmussen. (Entries may be subject to minor revision before publication.) Submission to the contest entails granting permission to publish the entry in the *Louisiana Folklife Journal*. The three prize winning students will also be invited to present their essay at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Louisiana Studies Conference held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on Saturday September 23, 2017.

Additional information is available on the website for the Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University: <https://louisianafolklife.nsula.edu/>.

Essay Contest Co-chairs:

Dr. Lisa Abney, Faculty Facilitator for Academic Research and Community College Outreach and Professor of English, Northwestern State University

Jason Church, Materials Conservator, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training

Lisa Davis, National Writing Project Director and Instructor of English and Education

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Associate Professor of English

Sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Writing Project, the College of Arts, Sciences, Graduate Studies and Research, the Office of Financial Aid, and the Office of Recruiting at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.