

California State University, Bakersfield & Bakersfield College
Pre Law-Writers of Kern Essay Competition

To: Political Science, English, Philosophy, Economics and Criminal Justice Majors @ California State University, Bakersfield	Date: November 1, 2017	No.
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Subject: Freedom of Speech at Public Universities

Prepared By: Judge Robert Tafoya Kern County Superior Court; Dr. Jeanine Kraybill, Department of Political Science and Pre Law Advisor @ CSUB; and Instructor Valerie Tuner, Department of English @ CSUB

Essay Competition



Essay Topic: *Should there be limits to speech at public universities and colleges, including restrictions on the type of guest speakers invited to lecture or be panelist at such institutions of higher learning?*

What: Political Science, English, Philosophy, Economics and Criminal Justice students @ CSUB are invited to participate in an Essay Contest sponsored by the Writers of Kern. The writing prompt will be on the above topic:

When: Students in the above listed majors must register to participate in advance of the competition. Students can submit registration forms to Dr. Jeanine Kraybill @ the Department of Political Science, located in BDC-A 248 from Wednesday, November 1, 2017 through Monday, December 11, 2017 or from Monday, January 22, 2018 through Thursday, February 1, 2018.

Guidelines: Essays are to be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, with 1" margins, and no more than 1,500 words in length. Essay must use citations inside the text and include a full reference page (note the reference page will not count towards the word count).

Screening Selection Process: Initial screening will be conducted by community partners, professors and Pre-Law Advisory Board members from the respective participating schools.

Rating Criteria: Submissions will be judged using the "Writers of Kern Grading Guidelines Rubric" included at the end of this document.

Deadlines: Essay submissions will be due (must be hard copy and pre-stapled) no later than Friday, March 9, 2018 to the Department of Political Science, located in BDC-A 248.

Awards: Cash prizes will be given to the top students from throughout the County.

REGISTRATION FORM

Please print legibly

Student's Full Name: _____

CSUB Email: _____

Institution: _____

Department: _____

Major: _____

Class Level (freshman, sophomore, junior or senior): _____

Release of Directory Information for Purposes of Publicity

Please note that by completing and turning in this registration form, along with participating in the California State University, Bakersfield & Bakersfield College Pre Law Writers of Kern Essay Competition, you are acknowledging that information about your participation may be publicly disclosed. If your submission is selected, you will be required to sign the Writers of Kern publication waiver.

Return: (1) *Registration Form* and (2) *Labeled Entries* to the Department of Political Office located in BDCA 248, no later than **Friday, March 9, 2017**

Questions, please email Dr. Jeanine E. Kraybill @ jkraybill@csub.edu

Please make an additional copy of this form to attach to the top of your submission.

Additional Information for WRITING CONTEST 2018

TOPIC: Should there be limits to speech at public universities and colleges, including restrictions on the type of guest speakers invited to lecture or be panelists at such institutions of higher learning?

Overview of Topic:

The Free Speech Movement (FSM) was born in 1964, when students at the University of California Berkeley organized to protest the campus's ban on political activities. Inspired by the Civil Rights Movement and the controversies surrounding the Vietnam War, students began to protest the right to free speech and academic freedom. Risking discipline by the university, students acted out in defiance of the ban.¹ As the movement grew and competing philosophies entered the conversation, demonstrations at times became violent.²

Today, some student groups and administrators on university and college campuses find themselves embroiled in a debate surrounding freedom of speech, particularly on the issue of controversial guest speakers. Unfortunately, at times these debates have taken a violent turn. For example, protest ensued on February 21, 2017 at UC Berkeley ahead of a scheduled talk to be given by the controversial political commentator Milo Yiannopoulos, former editor and contributor to *Breitbart News*, causing administrators to cancel the event.³ In light of other speeches being cancelled by polarizing figures due to safety concerns, UC Berkeley pledges to hold a "Free Speech" in the fall of 2017.⁴ However, student organizers recently announced they have cancelled the event due to complications with university administrators. The student group has also filed a complaint with the United States Department of Justice, citing that UC Berkeley has demonstrated a pattern of 1st Amendment violations, imposing "arbitrary and irrational bureaucratic hurdles on student groups which seek to exercise their First Amendment rights by holding public debates."⁵ UC Berkeley claims it has been working to support the rights of students and secure safety at such events.

This and several other recent cases regarding the debate of hosting controversial speakers on college campuses are examples demonstrating that we live in a politically charged environment, where different opinions, views and positions often collide in an increasingly pluralistic society. Some are concerned that limiting views, even if controversial, may run afoul of freedom of speech. On the other hand, while recognizing there is no hate speech exception to the 1st Amendment, some argue that no liberty is absolute and that college campuses should make an effort to restrict the type of speech and speakers they permit on campus, particularly those whose speech is often viewed as inflammatory and incendiary.

¹ "Free Speech Movement Overview." 2005. *Calisphere, University of California*. Accessed September 18, 2017. <https://calisphere.org/exhibitions/43/the-free-speech-movement/#overview>

² "This History of Cal: Berkeley in the 60s." *The Bancroft Library*. Accessed September 18, 2017. <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/CalHistory/60s.html>

³ Madison, Park and Kyung Lah. 2017. "Berkeley Protests of Yiannopoulos Caused \$100,000 in Damage. *CNN*, February 2. Accessed September 18, 2017. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/01/us/milo-yiannopoulos-berkeley/index.html>

⁴ Wam, William, 2017. "Milo's Appearance at Berkeley Led to Riots. He Vows to Return this Fall for a Week-Long Free-Speech Event," *The Washington Post*, April 26. Accessed September 18, 2017.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/04/26/milos-appearance-at-berkeley-led-to-riots-he-vows-to-return-this-fall-for-a-week-long-free-speech-event/?utm_term=.7bb22b110244

Wong, Ashley and Harini Shyamsundar. 2017. "Full Speaker List Released for 'Free Speech Week' at UC Berkeley." *Daily Cal*, September 14. Accessed September 18, 2017. <http://www.dailycal.org/2017/09/14/full-speaker-list-released-free-speech-week-uc-berkeley/>

⁵ Svrluga, Susan. 2017. "UC-Berkeley says 'Free Speech Week' is Canceled. Milo Yiannopoulos Says He's Coming Anyway." *The Washington Post*, September 23. Accessed September 25, 2017.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/09/23/uc-berkeley-says-free-speech-week-is-canceled-milo-yiannopoulos-says-hes-still-coming-to-campus/?utm_term=.d8087b927509

Though the topics being discussed may have changed, the debate regarding freedom of speech on public universities and college campuses is just as much alive and relevant today as it was in the 1960s. We would like you to research and consider this debate with regards to *public* institutions of higher learning within the terms of the topic/question posed above.

Items to Consider:

When preparing your essay, you will want to research the current issues, speakers and topics surrounding today's debate on free speech and college campuses. It also would be helpful to reacquaint yourself with the 1st Amendment, freedom of speech clause, along with former/relevant court cases that relate to this topic. You will want to think about your position and logically lay out a *research-based* position and opinion. We ask that you look to peer-reviewed/scholarly sources, as well as reputable main stream sources with strong journalistic standards and integrity. We will be hosting a workshop in the early portion of the Spring 2018 semester, where we will discuss research approaches, sources and format. The date of the workshop is to be determined, and you will be notified via email once it is scheduled. If you have questions in the meantime, you may contact Dr. Jeanine Kraybill @ jkraybill@csub.edu to submit your question or make an appointment during office hours. Please note that Dr. Kraybill will only provide guidance and clarification on the topic as to be fair and neutral to all competition participants.

Formatting Guidelines and Plagiarism: Essays are to be typed in Times New Roman font, size 12, double-spaced, and no more than 1,500 words in length. Essays must use citations both in and outside the text (meaning a full reference page that will not count towards the word count). Currently, the committee is open to the following citations styles:

- MLA (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)
- APA (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)
- Chicago Style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

Please see the links provided for tutorials on these acceptable citation formats. Also, please note that the competition will adhere to the university's guidelines on academic integrity. For your reference, here is a link to the CSUB's statement on Academic Integrity http://www.csub.edu/osrr/_files/Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf. Please note that violations of academic dishonesty (such as, but not limited to plagiarism) fall under these guidelines. If the committee feels your submission has any violations of academic integrity, it will be disqualified.

Community Partners: A Collaboration of the Kern County Bar Association, the Kern County Superior Court, ~~California Judicial Foundation~~ and Writers of Kern will be sponsoring this writing competition for college students considering a career in law.

WHEN: Submissions will be accepted from January 22-- March 9, 2018

WHO: Pre-law students from Bakersfield College and California State Bakersfield and ASTEP students from Bakersfield College

Key Resource: The Little Red Writing Book by Branson Royal

WHY: To promote critical thinking, research and writing skills.

Deadlines: Essays are due Friday, March 9, 2018. They will be delivered to Dr. Jeanine Kraybill at CSUB via the Political Science Department Office at BDC A 248. Selection of winning essays will occur in April.

Writers of Kern will host a recognition dinner May 19, 2018 where the winning authors will be recognized and will receive cash prizes.

California State University, Bakersfield & Bakersfield College

	4 Exceeds Expectations	3 Meets Expectations	2 Approaching Expectations	1 Below Expectations
Thesis & Focus	The thesis clearly and logically addresses the topic and purpose, and the essay consistently maintains this focus throughout.	For the most part, the thesis clearly and logically addresses the topic and purpose, and the essay maintains this focus with perhaps a few instances of loosely related material.	Generally, the thesis is somewhat unclear or unfocused, and the focus is unevenly sustained throughout the essay.	The thesis may be unclear or not related to the topic and purpose, and the essay maintains little or no focus.
Logical Reasoning to Develop & Organize Ideas	<p>Clear, strong connections among ideas create a logical and easily discernable progression of thought.</p> <p>Ideas are thoroughly developed with strong and compelling evidence and analysis.</p> <p>The logic shows complex and original thinking, is precise and predominately free of logical errors, and clearly addresses opposing points of view.</p>	<p>Connections among ideas are sufficient, if sometimes inconsistent or loosely made, creating an overall discernable progression of thought.</p> <p>Though a few ideas may be underdeveloped, for the most part, ideas are developed with sufficient evidence and analysis.</p> <p>The logic shows some precision and complexity of thought and addresses opposition, though there may be minor errors in reasoning.</p>	<p>Connections among ideas are often weak or vague, creating an overall inconsistent progression of thought.</p> <p>Ideas are developed with some evidence, but it is often weak, not clearly relevant, or accompanied with minimal analysis.</p> <p>The logic is often generic, redundant, imprecise, or faulty in places, and opposing points of view may be confusing or missing.</p>	<p>Connections among ideas are usually weak or missing, creating an illogical progression of thought.</p> <p>Most ideas are underdeveloped, lacking evidence or analysis, and evidence, when provided, is mostly weak or irrelevant.</p> <p>The logic is often conceptually chaotic, and opposing points of view are missing or not logically addressed.</p>
Sources	<p>Sources are credible and relevant and add clarity and strength to ideas.</p> <p>Sources are smoothly and effectively integrated without plagiarism.</p>	<p>Most sources are credible and relevant and add clarity and strength to ideas.</p> <p>Though there may be some awkwardly integrated sources, overall, they are sufficiently synthesized and correctly cited.</p>	<p>Sources are few or may not be adequately credible or clearly relevant.</p> <p>Sources are often awkwardly integrated, and citations may be inconsistent or incorrect in places.</p>	<p>Sources are questionable, irrelevant, or missing.</p> <p>Sources are often incorrectly integrated and cited, or citations are missing.</p>
Language	The writing is clear and easy to read, stylistically engaging, academically appropriate, and predominately free of errors.	For the most part, the writing is easy to read and academically appropriate, though there are usually some errors.	The writing is confusing, vague, or awkward; may be academically inappropriate; and, generally, has quite a few errors.	The writing is usually too difficult to understand, has many errors, and is often academically inappropriate.

If an essay fits the criteria (thesis, logic, sources, and language) for a score (4-1), then the essay should receive that score. Often essays will straddle two scores, such as 4 and 3 or 3 and 2, and in these cases readers must determine which score most accurately describes the essay in general. However, if an essay is *severely* deficient in one or two criteria—for instance, the essay is well written but fails to address the prompt—then readers should consider giving that essay a 2 or 1.