

The Pandemic: our world transformed

Cornerstone Contest: Fall 2020



The COVID pandemic continues to reshape our world. How has the pandemic transformed your vision of yourself and your future? And, how have your readings in Transformative Texts this Fall Semester helped you think about your new life in this new world? Is there a poem, a character in a novel, or simply a few lines in one of your readings that resonates with you now more than ever?

Contest Rules: Please use one of the prompts below to help you get started. You may choose to write a short reflective essay or short story (3 to 5 double-spaced pages) or give a speech (3-5 minutes) or create one long poem, a series of short poems or series of artwork inspired by your experiences in our transformed world and by your readings in SCLA 101/102. Please write/speak/create from the heart. This is about your vision.

Prompt 1: Many of our readings are about journeys: Gilgamesh and Enkidu, strengthened by their friendship, met and overcame challenges on their adventures; Odysseus faced numerous obstacles in order to return home; and Aeneas was challenged as he sought to establish a new homeland for the surviving Trojans. Some of our authors journeyed to freedom: Frederick Douglas, Harriet Jacobs, and Olaudah Equiano among others. How might these readings speak to how the Covid-19 pandemic is a journey for you?

Prompt 2: Create a short story, one long poem, a series of poems, or a series of photographs or digital artwork, inspired by your readings, that speak to your experience of the pandemic.

Prompt 3 Heroic acts can take many forms and can include a desire to be remembered for one's acts of bravery (e.g., Antigone, Gilgamesh) or for their willingness to face hardship and danger for the sake of others. What form of heroics did you witness in relation to the current pandemic? Do you think the person or persons you saw as heroic gave legacy or fame any thought?

Prompt 4: In Margaret Atwood's *A Handmaid's Tale*, one of the characters reflects on how the extraordinary has become ordinary ["Ordinary, said Aunt Lydia, is what you are used to. This may not seem ordinary to you now, but after a time it will. It will become ordinary."] How the pandemic has transformed our ordinary in both positive and negative ways? Please bring in your readings from either SCLA 101 or 102.

Eligibility: Any student currently enrolled in SCLA 101 or 102

Criteria: Essays should be 1500-2000 words (double-spaced, TNR-12); speeches should be 3 to 5 minutes. A prize committee composed of Cornerstone faculty will judge submissions based on their style, originality and creativity.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Card. First Place: \$100; Second place: \$75; 3 honorary mentions: \$50. Winners will automatically be nominated for publication in *The Cornerstone Review*.

Timeline: Submission deadline: **November 24**. Please send your submissions to Dr. Ayala-Chittick at smatosay@purdue.edu. Winners announced: December 1.

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