Right now, we are all grappling with a unique historical moment that calls for reflection. How has your world changed? How has your isolation transformed your vision of yourself and your future? And, how have your readings in Transformative Texts helped you think about your new life under quarantine? Is there a poem, a character in a novel, or simply a few lines in one of your readings that resonates now more than ever?

Write a short reflective essay (3 to 5 double-spaced pages) or give a speech (3-5 minutes) inspired by your experiences facing COVID-19. How do your experiences relate to a reading or readings in SCLA 101/102?

Please be write/speak from the heart. This is about you. The prompts below are only suggestions to help you get started, but how you tell your story is up to you.

Prompt 1: I never thought I would be able to relate to [character from a transformative text], but now….

Prompt 2: [transformative text title] is a work of fiction but now strikes a chord because…

Prompt 3: Reading has become a solace and source of strength to me in this new world of isolation and online only connectivity. The characters [or the words or the stories] inspire me ….

Prompt 4: COVID-19 has made me a prisoner. But I am stronger for it. And now I too have a story not unlike [transformative text character]

**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 polished writing/speaking style, originality and creativity.

**Prizes:** First Place: $100; Second place: $75; 5 honorary mentions: $50

**Timeline:**
Submission deadline: May 4. Please submit your essay or speech to Dr. Ayala-Chittick at smatosay@purdue.edu
Winners announced: May 15

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