

## BILL TAYLOR ESSAY CONTEST 2020-2021 FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

**Rationale:** This year’s Camden Conference was dedicated to “The Geopolitics of the Arctic: A Region in Peril”. Extrapolating upon content from modern Arctic history, politics and economics of the Arctic, environmental factors of the Arctic, nonfiction readings, and concepts from the Conference panelists, your task is to establish and justify a geopolitical position of what action(s) are needed moving forward to preserve, defend, or support the region as a whole.

### **Prompt:**

1. Select one of the following prompts:
  - a. Physically and historically, what makes the Arctic region distinct from other regions of the world? Why is it especially important now?
  - b. What are the strategic implications of the Arctic in terms of resource extraction, economic development, political influence, and defense strategies?
  - c. Why might the Arctic come to have a disproportionate effect on global society, global markets, and other environments throughout the world?
  - d. What can individuals do to impact policies pertaining to the Arctic, its preservation, and regulation?
  - e. What is the single most pressing issue facing the Arctic at present? What sort of global response is necessary to solve, mitigate, or address the issue most effectively?
2. Plan and compose a formal essay detailing your background research, thesis statement, lines of reasoning, and further recommendations for the international community.
3. Finalize and submit the essay to be reviewed prior to the dates listed below.

**Recommended Page Length:** 3-6 pages, typed and double-spaced. MLA or APA citations required.

**Due Date:** Date for review by your course instructors to be determined by each high school.  
Date for submission to the Bill Taylor Contest – essay to be received by Friday, May 28, 2021

### **Submission Instructions:**

1. Please send your paper electronically to [info@camdenconference.org](mailto:info@camdenconference.org).
2. Submissions must have a removable cover page that includes the student’s full name and the name of the school. Page headers must not include personal names.
3. Eligibility – any high school student who attended the 2021 Camden Conference.
4. To be eligible, you must include your permission to publish the paper on the Camden Conference website. This can be included on the cover page. Winning papers will be presented on the Camden Conference website.
5. In order to contact contest winners, students must provide a physical address where they can be reached during June and July.