

2023 Bill Taylor Essay Contest

High School Entries

Rationale: The subtitle of this year's Camden Conference is "Managing Turbulence," which suggests that the world's economic systems, priorities, and realities are currently out of balance. It further suggests that continuing on this same trajectory will have undesirable or perhaps catastrophic consequences for the planet itself, the markets, and people in every region of the world. Thus, your task is to make a single or set of policy recommendation(s) in order to harmonize those sources of discord with the goal of maximizing environmental sustainability, promoting broad economic prosperity, and supporting global social stability.

Prompt:

1. Select one source of economic or commercial imbalance of interest to you that is problematic. Identify what the problem is as you understand it and then develop a solution-based thesis in response. The essential questions listed below might provide inspiration or context for your work.
 - a. What are the historical and geographic foundations of the current global economic landscape? Are there any prevailing themes or common features in different regions prior to economic integration?
 - b. How do common measures of economic health help us to understand the world qualitatively, quantitatively, and anecdotally? Are there limits to what modeling and theory can explain?
 - c. Are political systems and economic systems segregable, or must one inform the other? Does globalization demand that all countries either Westernize (become more like Western Europe/North America) or Sinicize (become more like China)?
 - d. Which social, political, and economic elements might constitute culture? And, how do economic decisions directly shape culture?
 - e. Is economics a game that can be "won" or "lost"? And, if so, what constitutes economic success, economic failure, economic security, and permanence?
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: 4-6 pages, typed and double-spaced. MLA or APA citations required.

Due Date: To be determined by course instructors for each school.

Date for submission to the Bill Taylor Contest -- May 19th, 2023

Prize Totals: 1st place - \$200, 2nd place - \$150, 3rd place - \$100

Submission Instructions:

1. Please send your paper electronically to 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 2022 Camden Conference.
4. To be eligible, you must include your permission to publish the paper on the Camden Conference website.

This may 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.