



2024 Bill Taylor Essay Contest

Rationale: The title of this year’s Camden Conference is *India: Rising Ambitions, Challenges at Home*, which highlights the tension between India’s aspirations to become a political and economic global power while also attending to its own domestic challenges. India’s tremendous gains in education, technological capacity, advanced manufacturing and production, and international military might are tempered by the legacies of caste, colonial rule, and environmental exploitation; the current religious and ethnic tensions; and increasingly erratic climate-system and pollution problems. Thus, your task will be to identify one sub-set issue facing India and propose a policy solution which will benefit it and the international community.

Prompt:

1. Select a sub-set issue from one or more of the domains below:

Domain	Representative topics
Demographics	Overpopulation, Ethnic/Religious nationalism and extremism, Women’s rights issues, LGBTQ+ rights issues, Refugee/Internally Displaced Person challenges, et cetera.
Economics	Economic inequality, Urban/rural opportunity gap, Transnational trade tensions, Risk Diversification, et cetera.
Environment:	Public Health and Sanitation issues, Water quality and access, Air pollution, Extreme heat, Desertification, Extreme fires and flooding, et cetera.

The questions below might serve as reference points for your solution.

1. What are the historical, geographic, and religious foundations of modern India? How might one begin to appreciate its cultural and linguistic continuity, its current demographic challenges, and its projected social and economic diversity?

2. How might contemporary Indian art and media help outsiders to better understand the population's nuances, self-perceptions, and outward-facing worldviews? How do individual views on freedom of movement, freedom of expression, and social equality manifest in the artwork of the Indian homebound and the Indian diaspora?

3. How does India's recent past as a colonial outpost influence its current political ambitions? What kind of future does India want for itself?

4. Does India's sudden and meteoric rise to being an international political and economic power provide an effective model for other developing nations? And, do other nations actually aspire to be like India?

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 Bill Taylor Contest: Essay to be received by Friday, May 23, 2024

Prize totals: First-\$200, Second-\$150, Third-\$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 2024 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.