

MAROON EDITION

2017 ESSAY CONTEST

The Maroon & Write Project is proud to sponsor the 2017 Maroon Edition Essay Contest. All MSU undergraduate students are invited to submit an essay based on *The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates*. Students must be enrolled during the Spring 2018 semester to be eligible for a prize. Prizes will be awarded in freshman and upperclassman categories. Winners in each category will receive the following awards credited to their MSU accounts:

- 1ST PRIZE - \$500
- 2ND PRIZE - \$300
- 3RD PRIZE - \$100

Your essay must discuss ONE of these topics:

1. Compare and contrast the role of education in the lives of both Wes Moores, using and citing examples from the text. What role has education played in your family? What impact do you anticipate your education at Mississippi State University will have on your life?
2. What were the critical decisions made by each Wes Moore that impacted the trajectory of his life? What critical decision have you made that changed the direction of your life? What possible outcomes do you anticipate because of this decision?
3. Summarize the author Wes Moore's experiences that led him on a journey of awareness. As a Mississippi State student, you will encounter new perspectives, opportunities, and cultures. Describe a past experience that has broadened your understanding of others or yourself and explain how it prepared you to succeed as a college student.
4. The author Wes Moore describes himself as "lucky." Do you think his success is more about the decisions he made or the decisions that were made for him? Support your position with examples from the text. As a college student, you will likely make more decisions on your own than ever before. How prepared are you to manage this new responsibility? What campus resources might assist you in decision making?
5. In a conversation with the other Wes Moore, the author mentions the difficulty of distinguishing "between second chances and last chances." Give examples of what he means by that statement. Compare and contrast these "chances" with your own experience. What second or last chances led you to where you are today? Think about influential people or environmental factors that impacted your path to Mississippi State University.

Offer your own ideas and arguments, but be sure to use quotations and specific examples from the book to illustrate and support your points.



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Submission Requirements:

Essays must be 500-1000 words, double-spaced with 1-inch margins; use Times New Roman 12-point font. Center your essay title on the first page. **DO NOT** put your name on the body of the essay; instead, include a cover sheet with the following information:

- **Name**
- **Telephone Number**
- **NetID**
- **Contest Classification (freshman or upperclassman)**
- **Identification of Topic Choice**
- **MSU Honor Code: “As a Mississippi State University student, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”**

Submit your essay by midnight on Friday, November 10, 2017 to essaycontest@msstate.edu as an attached PDF document.

Submissions missing required information or submitted in the wrong format will not be accepted as valid entries. Submissions may be checked for plagiarism in Safe Assign. Winning essays will be archived in the Mississippi State University Libraries’ Institutional Repository.

