

The 2012 Williams-Mystic Essay Contest in Honor of Joseph Conrad

Awarding a \$500 prize, sponsored by
The Maritime Studies Program of Williams College and Mystic Seaport



Deadline: October 25, 2012

Eligibility: Undergraduates of any major in good academic standing at an accredited college or university are eligible. High school seniors may also submit.

Entry Fee: None.

The Essay: Submissions of **either fiction or nonfiction** should be between 1,000-5,000 words. Submissions may be about any topic and in any genre as long as the ocean or a major body of water is the primary setting or aspect of concern. The essay may be nature writing, environmental or political activism, literary or historic scholarship, or simply good storytelling. (Sorry, no collections of poetry this year.) The submitted work must be in English and unpublished at the time of submission, though it may be under consideration. It may have been submitted for a course.

Submission Format: *Paper manuscripts only; no email submissions accepted.* Mail to: Williams-Mystic/Joseph Conrad Essay Contest, Williams-Mystic, Mystic Seaport Museum, 75 Greenmanville Avenue, Mystic, CT 06355. **Cover letter** must include your full name, email, home college/university, year of intended graduation, title of submission, and word count. Your last name only must appear at the header of each page, along with the page number. You may enter as many times as you wish.

Acknowledgment: Williams-Mystic will email each applicant to confirm the essay's arrival. This prize is competitive; please be patient as to our final decision. Honorable mentions will be recognized.

Guest Judge: Dr. Steve Mentz is Associate Professor of English at St. John's University in New York City, USA. He is author most recently of [At the Bottom of Shakespeare's Ocean](#) and he writes regularly about maritime studies at [The Blue Humanities Blog](#).

Philosophy and History of the Prize: Williams-Mystic and an anonymous donor wish to encourage writing about the world's oceans or major water bodies. We wish to encourage promising writers to seize the opportunity, as part of their college career, to study about the sea, travel on the ocean, and live at Mystic Seaport: The Museum of America and the Sea, the largest maritime museum in the world. Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) was one of the greatest of our maritime authors. He wrote both fiction (*Typhoon*) and nonfiction (*The Mirror of the Sea*). Among other tall ships, Mystic Seaport owns and maintains the *Joseph Conrad* (1882), pictured above, which is a historic ship that circumnavigated the world with young people.

More information: www.williams.edu/williamsmystic, rk2@williams.edu