

## Essay Guidelines & 2026-2027 Prompt

CLFSA invites you to apply for our scholarship which honors the work of Dr. Ernesto Galarza. The goal of our scholarship is continuing Dr. Galarza's prolific academic scholarship, his advocacy, and his activism for the benefit of Mexican/Chicano/Latino people. Dr. Galarza's life recounts his genuine commitment as an insider— that is, he was a Mexican and he fought for social justice for Mexicans and other people who experienced economic, labor, and social inequities.

As you prepare your scholarship research essay, read the designated readings listed below and determine how you will address the prompt provided. Take notes. Your essay will consist of a review of the required readings, your interpretation of the prompt detailed below as it relates to contemporary issues confronted by Mexican/Chicana/o and other workers, and how YOU imagine or perform contributions to improve the quality of life of said people in the spirit of Dr. Galarza. Read the prompt carefully, take notes on the assigned readings, and identify other relevant references to strengthen your evidence (maybe readings from your classes) to write a powerful and well-documented essay.

As CLFSA's origins are rooted in the mobilization for education focusing on Chicana/o contributions to the U.S. and in the tradition of Chicana and Chicano Studies, we draw on the [National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies \(NACCS\)](#) as our academic guide for this and other endeavors. NACCS honored Dr. Galarza as one of its founding scholars. Please read the NACCS [Preamble](#) as it illustrates advocacy using Chicana and Chicano Studies as a discipline which champions Mexican Americans/Chicana/o/x people and communities at its core and in its mission. Your essay must show the connections between Dr. Galarza's perspectives and NACCS. Be sure to include a section in your essay on concrete recommendations to address the challenges you have identified as your area of expertise, interest, and experience which are influenced by the required readings within the prompt.

### Scholarship Essay Guidelines

**Length and Essay Requirements:** The length must be 6 to 7 pages, plus a cover page and a bibliography (in any standard academic bibliographic format e.g., Chicago, Turabian, APA, MLA, etc.). Avoid plagiarism by citing any excerpt you use within your essay properly. Guidelines for citing and evaluating information, as well as for avoiding plagiarism, are available <https://library.sjsu.edu/writeandcite/plagiarism>. Consult with one of your professors or academic advisers if you are uncertain how to ensure you have prepared your essay appropriately.

**Margins and Spacing:** Use 1-inch margins and 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial only). The cover page must include your name, major, year in college plus whether you are an undergraduate or a graduate student.

### Letters of Recommendation

Two (2) letters of recommendation are required. One letter must be from a professor, the second letter may be from an academic advisor. For CC students, you must submit a letter from one of your college professors and also include a letter from an academic adviser. *All letters must be written specifically for this scholarship on letterhead, dated, and signed. Letters should address how and/or why you should be considered for this scholarship as specified in the eligibility criteria of engagement/activism in Chicana/o and Mexicana/o communities.*

## ESSAY PROMPT: 2026-2027 Scholarship

*Dr. Galarza championed Mexican Immigrant and Mexican American workers (hereafter referred to as Mexican) in his scholarship and his advocacy. Since the advent of this administration, it has become common to refer to immigrants, often identifying Mexican origin people, as a threat to national security in diverse ways. All immigrants, and specifically Mexican immigrants have been targeted by various government agencies including ICE, Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the administration itself with the determination to remove citizenship rights and many other efforts. Yet, Mexican communities are diverse in their citizenship status and in terms of their civil rights. Mexicans (citizens and immigrants) have made enormous contributions to the United States and have legitimate civil and political rights.*

Things to consider:

Draw on the assigned readings to learn how Dr. Galarza documented and developed ways to rectify the violations of Mexican people and communities during his lifetime. Use these readings along with any additional references, like reputable news stories or government reports, to discuss how the contemporary attacks on Mexican communities and people are not unique or unprecedented.

- Consider the impact of being judged undesirable and criminal on the diverse people of our communities today.
- Identify some of the problems prompted by the threat of ICE and removal of civil rights such as fear, a lack of adequate safety in schools, at work, seeking health care, and in various spaces our people inhabit.
- While all immigrants are at risk, Mexican Americans and Mexican immigrants, experience disproportionate impact currently and historically.
- How are Dr. Galarza's ideas relevant and contribute to necessary ways contemporary people, such as you and CLFSA must advocate and halt the challenges and barriers our people and our communities face in the present and perhaps the future?

Organize your essay using the following sections.

1. **Introduction:** In this section develop your thesis and organization of your essay.
2. **Body:** Write a review discussion analyzing Dr. Galarza's ideas in relation to the essay prompt using the scholarship required. This is the body of your paper, so be certain to enrich the essay with carefully selected and cited excerpts from Dr. Galarza's writing and any additional scholarship you use to support your ideas. Be certain to address the issues in the prompt to develop your ideas succinctly. Cite the relevant scholarly references you used to support your essay.
3. **Conclusion:** Powerfully take your reader to a place of action that demonstrates your understanding of Dr. Galarza's ideas and actions and how you have or imagine yourself continuing his work. Show how you applied these to your essay.
4. **Bibliography:** Include a complete list of the references cited in your essay including the required references and all other references you use to write your essay.

**Readings:** Will be available on Reserve at the SJSU King Library under CLFSA and/or on a CANVAS CLFSA Scholarship Page. If you have difficulty accessing the readings, please send an email to Dr. Curry at: [Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu](mailto:Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu).

**Required Reading:**

Chabráñ, Richard. "Activism and Intellectual Struggle in the Life of Ernesto Galarza (1905-1984)." Pp. 135-152 in *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*, 1985, Vol 7 No. 2.

Ibarra, Armando and Rodolfo D. Torres, 2013. **Man of Fire: Selected Writings, Ernesto Galarza.** Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press. (Available as an eBook at <http://library.sjsu.edu>).

1. "The Reason Why: Lessons in Cartography." Pp. 72 to 75, (3 pages)
2. "California the Uncommonwealth." Pp. 46 to 62, (17 pages).
3. "Strangers in Our Fields." Pp. 236 to 256, (20 pages)
4. "Program for Action," Pp. 32 to 45, (14 pages).

**Recommended Reading:**

1. "Life in the United States for Mexican People: Out of the Experience of a Mexican." Pp. 27 to 31, (4 pages).
2. "Economic Development by Mexican Americans in Oakland, California." Pages 76 to 99, (23 pages).
3. "The Farm Laborer: His Economic and Social Outlook." Pages 224 to 235, (11 pages).
4. "The Mexican American Migrant Worker-Culture and Powerlessness. Pp 161 to 166, (5 pages).

Note: The chapters are historical documents which were written when there was not a mindfulness about gender inclusion and some language that is no longer common in our communities. Please do not be deterred by the masculinist language used by Dr. Galarza or by Chabráñ. Instead consider how in the present your writing is inclusive of genders, roles, and contributions, (J. Curry Rodríguez).

**Application submission:** The complete application packet (incomplete packets will not be reviewed):

1. Applicant form.
2. Essay with bibliography.
3. Transcript(s) of all your college courses (i.e., community college, SJSU, other university).
4. Two (2) Letters of Recommendation.

**SUBMISSION:** Create one PDF file with items 1-4 (include the two letters). Name the file using your last name and first name (e.g. Galarza, Ernesto.pdf). Send the complete packet to: [clfsa-scholarship-group@sjsu.edu](mailto:clfsa-scholarship-group@sjsu.edu).

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS:** November 9, 2026, 5:00PM.

**Questions or Concerns?** Contact CLFSA Scholarship Coordinator, Dr. Julia Curry at [Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu](mailto:Julia.Curry@sjsu.edu).