

Tips for Taylor:

When submitting to the Taylor award, keep these things in mind:

Be professional: Consider this an opportunity to practice typical submission guidelines like those outlined below.

Be on time: Make sure that your paper gets to the proper person (that year's association president) by the due date of August 1. Papers that arrive late will not be distributed to the judges or considered for the Taylor award.

Be within page and time limits: WLA presentations are set for 20 minutes, which is about 10 pages of double spaced manuscript. Judges want to know that you can make your case within that time, so make sure you stay within the allotted length of between 10-15 pages. Longer papers will not be considered.

Follow "blind submission" guidelines: Your name should *not* appear anywhere in the manuscript. Don't include a cover page and don't use your name as a header, for instance. Make sure that the title of the paper is at the top of the first page. This allows your paper to be judged anonymously.

Send multiple copies: Submit three, stapled copies of your paper.

Write a cover letter: But make it short and sweet by simply including the name of the paper and clearly identifying that you are submitting it for the Taylor Award. If you wish, you may also note that your paper proposal was already accepted and that you are or will be registered for the conference.

Finally, please note that the paper you submit for the Taylor must be the same paper you will read at that year's conference.

What wins:

Generally, judges are looking for essays that could have a potential for publication, perhaps in a scholarly journal or a graduate student publication. They are aware that you would revise and develop ideas before submitting, but they are looking for a solid foundation that could lead you to a publication that would make a contribution to the field. Therefore, like all good graduate writing, your paper should be cohesive and insightful with an in depth analysis of a narrowed topic, and you need to show that you can make a convincing argument that offers a fresh perspective. Past winners have contextualized works of western literature within cultural and historical context; they have expanded the notion of "western" by analyzing writers that we typically do not think of as western; or they have used interdisciplinary approaches to enrich our reading of classic works. Winning papers offer a close reading of works, but they do not rely solely on new critical approaches of textual analysis. While you ought to have a clear thesis and hopefully draw conclusions about your material, the judges realize that sometimes good papers raise as many questions as they answer; if that is your approach, make sure the

unanswered questions are compelling. Judges also consider how well they believe the paper will work as an oral presentation.