

2017 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest



2016 Grand Prize Winner Kendal Young of Spring Lake, MI, with Rob Manfred, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, and Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson and author.

Deadline: March 14, 2017 | Grades 4–9

Write About a Barrier You Have Faced

Each year April 15 marks the anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball in 1947. Honoring this important event, the **Breaking Barriers Essay Contest** is a chance for diverse students across the country to share their personal stories and how they use Jackie Robinson’s nine values to face their own barriers.

How to Enter:

1 Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson’s nine values (listed below) to face this barrier.

- Citizenship
- Commitment
- Courage
- Determination
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Justice
- Persistence
- Teamwork

2 Each entry must include the following information:

- student’s name
- student’s grade
- teacher’s name
- school name
- school city and state

3 Submit your essay in one of two ways:

Mail:

Breaking Barriers Contest
Scholastic Inc.
P.O. Box 713
New York, NY 10013-0713

Online:

Grades 4–8: Give your entry to your teacher to enter online
Grade 9: Enter at scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9

10 National Winners

Grand Prize Winners (2)

- **Grades 4–6:** Trip to the 2017 MLB® All-Star Game®
- **Grades 7–9:** Trip to a game of the 2017 MLB® World Series®
- Student and teacher laptops
- Class visit from Sharon Robinson

MVP Winners (2)

- Student and teacher laptops
- Class visit from Sharon Robinson

All-Star Winners (6)

- Student laptops

All 10 winners also receive a class set of books by Sharon Robinson and a class set of T-shirts.

- All entries must be submitted by March 14, 2017.
- All essays must be factual and based on the student’s real-life experience. Fictional stories will be disqualified.

Word Count Requirements:

Grades 4–6: 200 to 750 words **Grades 7–9:** 500 to 1,400 words

Essays will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well does the essay express the student’s barrier?
- How well does the essay express how one or more of the values—*citizenship, commitment, courage, determination, excellence, integrity, justice, persistence, and teamwork*—are used to face and/or overcome the barrier?
- How well is the essay organized to express what the writer wants to say?
- How effective is the essay in expressing the writer’s point of view?
- How well does the essay incorporate an example of Jackie Robinson?
- Correct grammar and spelling will also be considered.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Void where prohibited. All students who are legal residents of, and currently reside in, the U.S., D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada (excluding Quebec) and who are currently enrolled in grades 4–9 are eligible to enter, except for those who have family members employed by Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., Scholastic Inc., and other related companies (see the Official Rules for a complete listing). Visit scholastic.com/breakingbarriers for complete Official Rules and restrictions. All prospective winners and their respective parents/legal guardians will be required to sign, notarize, and return an affidavit of eligibility/release of liability within ten (10) days of date of notification or an alternate winner may be selected. In the event of prize unavailability, a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded as determined by the sole discretion of MLB. No cash substitutions for prizes. Prizes are nontransferable. ERV of Prizes: Grand Prize (\$7,659.70); MVP (\$4,859.70); All-Star (\$810.00).