



# The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest



**What:** The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest.

**When:** Contest ends **Monday, February 13, 2023.**

**Where:** Winners announced at the **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 25, 2023** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA 22202.

**Who:** All 5th Grade Students currently enrolled in any Virginia elementary school (or home schooled).

## The Winners Receive

**First Prize: \$300**

**Second Prize: \$150**

**Third Prize: \$75**

- Monetary gifts from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners are announced during the Gala. All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the 23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive a large poster-size check with their name and winning amount.
- All winners will receive a complimentary family portrait from our professional photographer at the 23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- All will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- All monetary awards will be distributed on Saturday, February 25, 2023 during the 23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala.

Cover Sheet Information  
(Must Accompany Your Essay Submission)

Essay Title:

Name:

Permanent Address:

Home Phone Number:

Contact E-mail Address:

Gender:  Male  Female

Grade (as of fall of 2022):

School Name & Address (as of fall of 2022):

## Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students currently enrolled in any Virginia Elementary School (or home schooled).
2. Contest ends **Monday, February 13, 2023**.
3. Writing entries should be limited to two pages plus cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be written by the student.
5. The entry must be neatly handwritten on standard ruled note paper.
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.
7. **HOW TO ENTER:** The essay should pertain to the following topic:

**Topic:** Next year's Black History Month Theme is Black Resistance. **Question:** Identify two National Black organizations (i.e., National Council of Negro Women, National Urban League, Jack & Jill of America, United Negro College Fund and etc.) that have been established to support the intellectual development of communities to preserve Black stories, sponsor Black history and provide cultural education. Describe who they are and what is their mission? Tell us about the founder(s) of the organization and identify the need they uncovered. Compare the two organizations and tell us which one impressed you the most and why?

8. **Judging Criteria:** The three winners will be selected by a neutral judging panel and will be rated in three areas: writing skill, story content and originality.
9. The list of panel members is **Ms. Pamela Nephew** (College Professor), **Mr. Larry Marks** (High School Principal) and **Mr. Eugene Williams**, (Author & High School Principal). Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decision of the judges. All decisions are final. The top three winners will be notified by mail or phone call no later than **Monday, February 20, 2023**.
10. Send the enclosed cover sheet with each entry. Ensure you include the following:
  - Name and title of the entry
  - Student's permanent home address and school address (if applicable)
  - Telephone number(s)

**Note:** Scan and Email entries to: [President@vabhma.com](mailto:President@vabhma.com) or mail entries to: **The Virginia Black History Month Children's Writing Contest, PO Box 41924, FREDERICKSBURG VA 22404**. All entries must be received by 5:00pm on **Monday, February 13, 2023**.

11. The writing entry with the highest achievement will receive the first-place award; next highest achievement will receive the second-place award, and the third highest achievement will receive the third-place award.
12. Certificates will be presented during the 23rd Annual Virginia Black History Month Gala **on Saturday, February 25, 2023 (Please arrive by 5:15pm)**. **We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. In addition, the winners and one of their parent's will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend the Gala. The cost of adult tickets for additional attendees is adults: \$95.00, Students: \$60 and Children: (under 12 yrs. old) \$40.00 (Note: Children 5 yrs. old and under are free).**