

Enter the 20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Challenge

September 28, 2020 – November 6, 2020

“The Fierce Urgency of Dr. King’s Vision for Unity and Love for Our Community”



Grade Level	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K – 2	\$150	\$125	\$100
3 – 5	\$175	\$150	\$125
6 – 8	\$200	\$175	\$150
9 – 12	\$350	\$250	\$150



Essay Topic: “The Fierce Urgency of Dr. King’s Vision for Unity and Love for Our Community”

Participants’ Criteria

Elementary School students - Grades K - 2

100 – 200 word essay (not more than 200 words)

Elementary School students – Grades 3 – 5

300 – 500 word essay (not more than 500 words)

Middle School students – Grades 6 - 8

500 - 700 word essay (not more than 700 words)

High School students – Grades 9 - 12

800 – 1000 word essay (not more than 1000 words)

(1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winner will be selected from each group above)

Submission format: Personal Data (Cover Page – Essay will NOT be graded without a cover page)

Name & Grade **(Name on cover page only – NOT on the essay)**

Residential Address and Phone Number

Parent(s) Name and Phone Number

School’s Name and Phone Number

Teacher’s Name

School Principal’s Name

Content of Criteria

Relevance of material to the subject- expound on what Dr. King had envisioned or hoped to see and what you can do today to promote or advance his dream.

Composition: Is the essay on the right topic and does the essay specifically address the topic?

Is content organized?

Is there unity of thought?

Is subject developed in a logical manner?

Does choice of words show variety and are non-repetitive?

Is sentence structure and grammar good?

Is the content creative and original?

Neatness **(prefer typed essay) Essays that are hard to read may affect grading**

Note: All essays must be interoffice couriered or delivered to Ms. Chandra Hall, Senior Director of Equity and Diversity Management, at 1915 S. Floral Ave., Bartow, FL 33830 **no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 6, 2020**. Disabled students needing an accommodation should notify Ms. Hall at (863)534-0781 x569. This year the Annual MLK event in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be a televised program on **PGTV** and **will not include a dinner event**. All first place winners will be REQUIRED to be videotaped by PGTV reading their winning essays and will receive notification of the scheduled date and time of the taping. **Questions about writing criteria can be directed to Ms. Diane Plowden, Director K-12 Writing at (863)534-0018 x668. All other contest or event questions should be directed to Richard Bradford, Polk County Equal Opportunity Administrator, at (863)534-6075 or 5901.**



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Community Relations Advisory Council and the Polk County School District

