

## 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)

(1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

