

Brazoria County Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee
2010 Youth Essay Contest
Official Guidelines

THEME FOR 2010: “Love - Stand - Serve”

WHO MAY ENTER: The contest is open to all students in grades 4-12 in all public, private, and parochial schools of Brazoria County.

HOW TO ENTER: Individual students may submit only one essay for competition. Schools should only submit the top five essays from their school.

CONTEST DEADLINE: All essays must be submitted by 4:00 P.M. January 30, 2010 at any Brazoria County Library. All essays may be submitted beginning December 17, 2009 through January 30, 2010.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: Awards to be announced on the website and presented on February 11, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at the Angleton Recreation Center.

Contest Information

1. Each year, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee sponsors an essay contest in honor of the Dr. King’s Holiday.
2. Copies of these Official Guidelines are available on the Brazoria County MLKCC Website: <http://www.mlkcabc.com>
3. The intent of the Essay Contest is to provide all students with an opportunity to learn about Dr. King, his message and his work; to give students an opportunity to reflect on our present and the future in light of Dr. King’s purpose; and to encourage continued study through financial awards that can hopefully help students continue their lives and education with a permanent appreciation for Dr. King.
4. THE THEME FOR ALL ESSAYS must be: “Love – Stand - Serve”
5. ESSAY FORMAT (Please read carefully)
 - a. Each essay should be between 175-200 words, typewritten, double-spaced on white, 8½ x 11 paper. Each page should be numbered consecutively. Entries should be stapled securely together, not paper-clipped. Hand written essays will not be accepted.
 - b. Each entry must include a title page containing the following information:
 - The Title: **“Love – Stand - Serve”, Name, phone number, grade, and name of school and school district.** (This information should appear only on the title page since the essays will be judged with this page removed.)

6. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

Content--Interpretation of and adherence to the subject - 30%

Expression--Choice of words, imagery, and style - 20%

Form--Organization, idea development -20%

Mechanics--Grammar, spelling, neatness and punctuation -20%

Overall Presentation-- Interest, appeal, clarity, and adherence to Contest Rules - 10%

100% Total

Essays are judged carefully on the basis of these criteria and compliance with the rules of the contest. A panel of judges will select the final winners. The judges will not know the entrants' names or schools at the time of judging.

7. AWARDS: Monetary awards for the top three winning essays in the county-wide contest will be presented on February 11, 2010, 6:00 P.M. at Angleton Recreation Center by the MLKCC.

Monetary awards ranging from \$25.00 to \$100.00 dollars will be presented to the first, second, and third place winners of each category.

8. PUBLICATION PERMISSION: By entering the contest, students give their permission for their essays to be finally formatted and printed in the program for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee, as well as to be distributed and displayed in the community and the media.

For more information, contact Jessica Willis at (979)864-3422 or 848-6495 or email roy.willis@att.net.