



2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay Contest

Theme: "Strength to Hope"

This year's theme is "Strength to Hope". 2020 was a year of uncertainty, new ways of thinking, new challenges and caused us to find strength in our hope to overcome all that we were experiencing. Dr. King sought this same strength many years ago. The reference for this theme comes from the commencement address Dr. King gave in 1961, "The American Dream," from A Testament of Hope. He writes on page 211 "The great problem confronting us today is that we have allowed the means by which we live to outdistance the ends for which we live." Then on page 213 he writes "Even a superficial look at history shows that social progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless effort and the persistent work of dedicated individuals."

Who May Apply? All 6th – 12th grade students are eligible to participate in the essay contest.

Requirements:

- ✘ Participant must be enrolled in a Smith County school
- ✘ The essay should be inspired by the theme "Strength to Hope"
- ✘ Entries must be 500 words or less on standard 8½" x 11" white paper TYPED with 1" margins, double spaced, and in no creative font (Arial or New Times Roman are recommended). It is recommended that you type your essay for ease of reading. Handwritten essays will be accepted; however, points will be deducted if essays are handwritten and/or hard to read.
- ✘ Students may not use copyrighted materials without proper permission/citation.
- ✘ Videos, films, drawings, etc. will not be accepted

Judging/Awards:

- 🏆 All writing entries will be judged on: purpose, awareness of audience, idea development, organization (sentence structure and transition), language, coherence and correctness.
- 🏆 There will be 6 winners (1st, 2nd and 3rd place from 6th thru 8th grade and 9th thru 12th grade).
- 🏆 The winners will be announced in February and presented at a virtual event on February 21st where we will ask the winners to read their essays.

Deadline: Entries must be received no later than close of business on *Friday, January 29, 2021*.

Submissions:

- ❖ If you are submitting entries to their school's main office, please send an email to mlkcontest@tylertogether.org so we can arrange pick up.
- ❖ Entries can be submitted by email in PDF format along with cover forms to mlkcontest@tylertogether.org.

Teacher Responsibility:

- 👉 Teachers are asked to keep an "Inventory Sheet" of the essays that are submitted from their class to ensure that all essays are accounted for and received.
- 👉 The "Inventory Sheet" must be submitted with your group of essays.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Herwaneia Sirles at (903) 372-9791 (text messages welcome) or mlkcontest@tylertogether.org. Please feel free to visit the Tyler Together Race Relations Forum website at www.tylertogether.org for more information about the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day activities.



2021 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Name Grade

School (use full name, not abbreviations) School District

Parent(s) or Guardian Name Phone #

Parent's E-mail Address (if different then student's)

Teacher's Name Phone # E-mail Address

Student Signature Date

Parent(s) or Guardian Signature Date

**This entry form must be submitted along with your essay in order to participate.
All materials must be received no later than *Friday, January 29, 2021.***