

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ESSAY CONTEST

Theme: Making Lives Matter

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Building on Dr. King's passion and leadership, students are asked to creatively express how to realize the dream of making lives matter – in their own life and in others' lives. Students should reflect on Dr. King's legacy of service to explore innovative approaches to positive social change.

Who May Apply? All 4-12th grade students are eligible to participate in the essay contest.

Requirements:

- Participants must be enrolled in a Kentucky school.
- The essay should be inspired by a Dr. King moment or speech and how it has influenced the student's thoughts on the theme: **Making Lives Matter**
- Entries must be **500 words or less** on standard 8-1/2" x 11" white paper with 1" margins, double spaced, and in no creative font (Arial and or/New Times Roman are recommended).
- Videos, films, drawings, etc. will not be accepted.

All writing entries will be judged on the criteria listed in the Kentucky Writing Scoring Rubric: **purpose, awareness of audience, idea development, organization** (sentence structure and transitions), **language** and **correctness**.

Awards: Contest winners will receive a personalized plaque.

Note: First, second and third place winners will be selected in each school grade from 4-12th.

EXTENDED Deadline: Entries **must be received** (not postmarked) in the Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment no later than close of business on **Monday, November 30, 2015.**

How to Submit Entries: Students should mail or deliver entries to:

MLK Essay Contest – 2016
700 Capitol Ave., Suite 138
Frankfort, KY 40601

Information to include with entries:

- Student's name, address and grade level
- Parent's name and home phone number
- School district, school name and school telephone number
- Teacher's name

If you have questions, please contact the Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment at 502-564-2611.

Please feel free to use the following website link to the Kentucky Civil Rights Database provided by the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Oral History Commission as an additional resource.

http://205.204.134.47/civil_rights_mvt/default.aspx

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ESSAY CONTEST**

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Parent's Name _____

Home Phone Number _____

Grade _____ Teacher's Name _____

School Name _____

School District _____

School Phone Number _____