

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee of Brazoria County, Inc.

2021 Youth Essay Contest

Official Guidelines

THEME: Stronger Together!

WHO MAY ENTER: The contest is open to all students in *grades 6-12* in all public, private, and parochial schools of Brazoria County.

HOW TO ENTER: Individual students may submit only one essay by email at essays@mlkcc.org

CONTEST DEADLINE: All essays must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, January 28, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS: Winners will be contacted by phone and awards will be presented to first, second and third place winners. **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the award ceremony date/time/location will be determined at a later date.**

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.mlkcc.org>
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. Based on the theme Stronger Together, **describe what it means to you and how will it impact our community.**

ESSAY FORMAT (Please read carefully):

1. Each essay should be between 300 -350 words, typewritten, double-spaced, 12 font and printable on 8½ x 11 paper.
2. Each page should be numbered consecutively. Hand written essays will not be accepted.
3. Each entry must include a title page containing the following information:
 - The Title: **Stronger Together!**
 - **Name, phone number, email, grade, 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).*

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:

1. Content-- Interpretation of and adherence to the subject - 30%
2. Expression--Choice of words, imagery, and style - 20%
3. Form-- Organization, idea development -20%
4. Mechanics-- Grammar, spelling, neatness and punctuation -20%
5. Overall Presentation-- Interest, appeal, clarity, and adherence to contest rules - 10%

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 at the time of judging.

PUBLICATION PERMISSION:

By entering the contest, the essays become the property of the MLKCC and may be used for display in the community and/or media by the committee. The entry may not be returned. The selected essay may be digitally altered to assure quality reproduction.

For additional information, contact Jessica Willis, (979) 848-6495 or Esther Williams, (979) 848-7750, or email: essays@mlkcc.org