



2020 MLK Essay & Oratorical Contest

The St. Petersburg chapter of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Organization, Inc., in cooperation with the Theta Eta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., presents the 33rd annual Essay & Oratorical Contest. The event will take place on January 16, 2020 at 7 p.m. at the Enoch D. Davis Center, located at 1111 18th Avenue S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

THEME: 20/20 Vision — If Dr. King had 20/20 vision into the future, which of his principles do you think he would consider most relevant to present day immigration issues and why?



- Students must be currently enrolled in a public or private high school in Pinellas County.
- Essay must be 300-600 words in length to be eligible for consideration. Please provide the word count on the cover page.
- Essay must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, black ink only.
- Last year's first place winner cannot compete during consecutive years.
- Relatives of judges, EDDC staff, MLK Committee Members, and sponsoring agencies are NOT eligible.
- Essays must have a separate cover sheet with entrant's name, address, phone number, name of high school, age, grade, and word count.

Essays will be judged on a point system with one to five points earned in the following categories: 1) creativity & originality, 2) grammar & spelling, 3) overall organization & writing style, and 4) relevancy of response to the topic. The six highest scoring entries will be offered an oratorical workshop on Friday, January 10, and will be required to present their essays publicly at the program to be held on January 16, 2020. First, second, and third place winners will be selected based on total score from both the written essay and oral presentation.

On Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 7 p.m., the top six entrants will be judged on their oral presentation and stage presence. Judges will place strong emphasis on the contestant's familiarity with the content of their essay and their ability to clearly verbalize the essence of the essay.

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE ENOCH D. DAVIS CENTER (1111 18TH AVENUE S., ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705) NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2019.

Winners will receive monetary awards: first place — \$200, second place — \$100, and third place — \$75. Additionally, there will be an honorable mention category with an award recognition of \$25 for each winner. We consider this contest to be of great significance to the youth of our community and we deeply appreciate your assistance. If you have questions, please contact Lynette Buchanan at 727-893-7159, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event. In addition it is not approving or endorsing the views of the organization sponsoring the activity.

