



2021 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. is presenting the 34th Annual Essay & Oratorical Contest. The event will be held at the Enoch Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL on Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 7:00.

THEME: How is the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement similar yet different from the Civil Rights Movement of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's lifetime.



- Students must be currently enrolled in a public or private high school in Pinellas County.
- Essay must be 300-600 words 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.
- Previous first place winner cannot enter in 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 topic. The six highest scoring entries will be offered an oratorical workshop on Friday, January 8, 2021 and be required to present their essays publicly at the January 14, 2021 program. Winners will be selected based on their written essay and oral presentation.

On Thursday, January 14, 2021 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. One to five points may be earned in each of the previously stated categories. First, second, and third place winners will be determined by the total of the scores from the public presentation.

ALL ESSAYS MUST BE SUBMITTED AT THE ENOCH D. DAVIS CENTER, 1111 18TH AVE. S, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33705 NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020.

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. We consider this contest to be of great significance to the youth of our community. We would deeply appreciate your assistance. If you have questions, please contact Lynette Buchanan at 727-893-7159, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

