

THE BLACK HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST
Sponsored by the Black History Ministry
Of Beulah Grove Baptist Church

Students in elementary grades (4th and 5th), middle school grades (6th, 7th and 8th), and high school grades (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th) who attend public or private schools can enter this essay contest by writing an essay that starts with one of the quotations listed below from a noted African American. The students must explain the significance of their selected quotation and communicate what the quotation means to them.

QUOTATIONS

Select **one** of the following seven quotations below to start and write your essay:

- 1) "Without a struggle, there can be no progress." ~**Frederick Douglass**
- 2) "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise I rise I rise." ~**Maya Angelou**
- 3) "It took a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to get to where we are today, but we have just begun." ~**President Barack Obama**
- 4) "I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me." ~ **Muhammad Ali**
- 5) "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
~**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**
- 6) "The whole world opened to me when I learned to read."
~**Mary McLeod Bethune**
- 7) "No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you."
~ **Althea Gibson**

GUIDELINES

1. All writers must be students in grades 4th - 12th.
2. Each student must turn in only one entry.
3. Each entry must be from 1 to 2 typed double-spaced pages for elementary and middle school students, and from 2 to 3 typed double-spaced pages for high school students.
4. Each essay must be solely the work of the student.
5. Attached to each entry must be a completed contest entry form
6. All entries must be received by Friday, February 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

JUDGING

A panel of professionals will choose the winners. Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate, and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of the selected quotation. Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging process. To ensure the anonymity of our participants, cover sheets and identifying information are removed after the first round. Winners' names remain unknown to judges until after the essays have been ranked and the contest results finalized. **Decisions of the judges are final.**

ALL essay entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Theme Identified (Topic sentence should be the selected quotation.)
2. Strong Introduction and Connection to Selected Quotation
3. A Little History on the Author of the Selected Quotation
4. Personal Life or Real Life Experience(s) Tied-In
5. Evidence for Persuasion (Persuade others to support your selected quotation.)
6. Clarity (Be clear and concise in your writing.)
7. Strong Conclusion
8. Creativity of Assignment
9. Flow of Writing (Make sure there is a smooth transition from one paragraph to another.)
10. Correct Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation Usage (Use spell check and grammar check.)

CONTEST WINNERS

ALL Contest Winners will be recognized at the Black History Program being held at Beulah Grove Baptist Church on Sunday, February 19, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. The grand prize winners from each school level will present their essay at this program. Winners will be notified by Thursday, February 9.

PRIZES

Each school level (Elementary, Middle School, and High School) will be awarded the following prizes:

One Grand Prize Winner - \$100.00 Savings Bond

One 2nd Place Winner- \$75.00 Savings Bond

One 3rd Place Winner- \$50.00 Savings Bond

Each participant will receive a certificate of participation.

CONTEST SCHEDULE

The Black History Essay contest information packets will be presented to the Children Church on January 7, 2012 for review and suggestions. The information packets will be distributed to students at the rehearsal on January 14, placed on the church website, and distributed to area schools. Students should place their completed essays along with a contest entry form in an envelope labeled Attn: Black History Ministry. Students can then submit their entries for the contest as soon as they complete them. **All entries must be received by Friday, February 3, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

Submissions should be mailed to or dropped off at:

Beulah Grove Baptist Church
Attn: Black History Ministry
1434 Poplar Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901

Contact Person: Willie Eva Sampson
(706) 790-9817

Black History ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

**Presented by
The Black History Ministry of
Beulah Grove Baptist Church**

(Please Print Neatly.)

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ **Age:** _____

Name of School Currently Attending: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

Parent's Name(s): _____

Parent's Email Address (if available): _____

Quotation Selected by Student for Essay: _____
