

*Honoring*  
DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER  
KING JR.

**DEADLINE  
EXTENDED**

**12/15**

STATE OF RI DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY  
COMMISSION

**Annual Essay  
Contest  
Open to all Middle  
& High School  
Students in RI**

Entry Deadline:  
Monday, December 7, 2020  
To request instructions send an  
email to:  
[MLKRICommission@gmail.com](mailto:MLKRICommission@gmail.com)

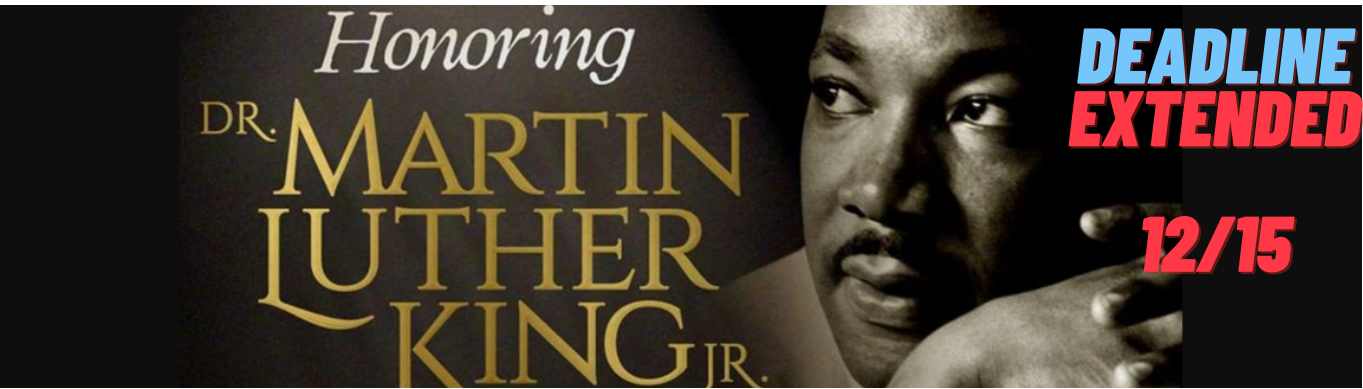
FOUR WINNERS WILL BE  
SELECTED. EACH ONE WILL  
RECEIVE A \$100 PRIZE AND IS  
EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE  
COMMISSION'S VIRTUAL  
CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR  
JANUARY 18, 2021

**PRESENTED BY**

PROVIDENCE  
**Journal**



# State of RI Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission



## ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST

### CONTEST RULES

- Entries must be from RI middle or high school students;
- Essays must be typed in the Microsoft Word format and limited to 500-750 (middle school) or 750-1000 words (high school)
- Essays must include completed Entry Forms (attached) and be submitted individually as the original work of only one student;
- Essays and Entry Forms MUST be electronically submitted to [MLKRICommission@gmail.com](mailto:MLKRICommission@gmail.com)
- The Commission and the Providence Journal reserve the right to promote, publish, and/or distribute any or all entries.

**Entry Deadline:  
Monday, December 7**

Four winners will be chosen (2 middle school and 2 high school students). Each one will receive a \$100 prize and is expected to attend the Commission's virtual Ceremony scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021.

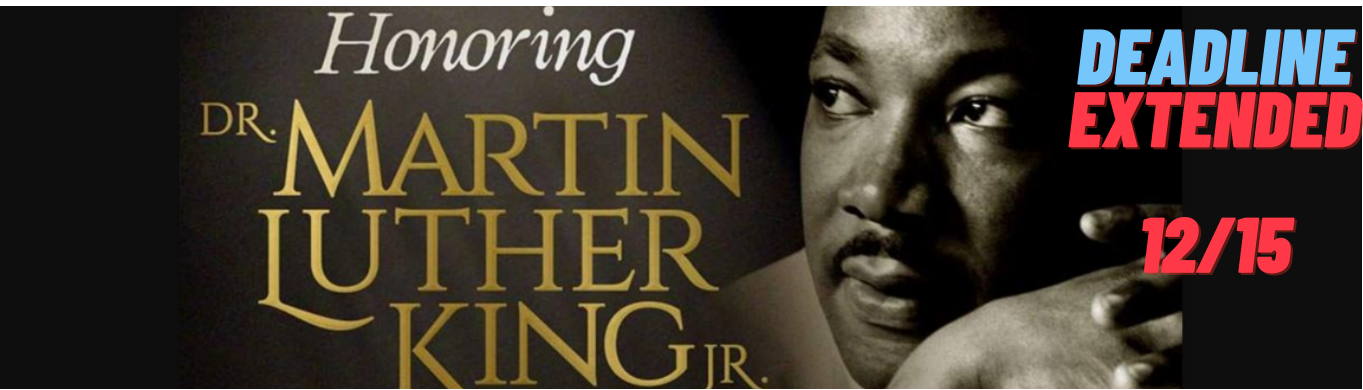
## MIDDLE SCHOOL PROMPT

The COVID 19 Pandemic has opened the eyes of many people to the historic disparities in healthcare in the United States in communities of color. In 1966 the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

**Please reflect on Dr. King's words and share: What do you think Dr. King would say about the healthcare disparities that we have seen since March as a result of the COVID 19 Pandemic.**

Source of quote: Luther King M., Jr Presentation at the Second National Convention of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, Chicago, 25 March 1966

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## HIGH SCHOOL PROMPT

The video of George Floyd's death in the custody of the Minneapolis police on May 25, 2020, the shooting of Breonna Taylor on March 13, 2020 and other police involved shootings have sparked an expanded sense of the awareness of the numerous instances of the death of Black Americans at the hands of police.

**After reading the two articles:** "The Death of Emmett Till had Profound Affect on MLK and Civil Rights Movement" by Paula Wissel, Jan 18, 2016 and Stanford University's The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Educational Institute found here:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BUspeJWHb5GqDj\\_8jlXTVq09luLVAL8H-OpYBhGpfnc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BUspeJWHb5GqDj_8jlXTVq09luLVAL8H-OpYBhGpfnc/edit?usp=sharing)

1. Please reflect on the influence of Emmett Till's death on the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. What do you think Dr. King's response would be to the current climate in America's race relations?
3. Building from the nation's context on your above response: What do you think Dr. King's response would be to the current climate in Rhode Island's race relations?

**DEADLINE  
EXTENDED**

**12/15**



**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
HOLIDAY COMMISSION**

**ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM**

(EMAIL FORM TO [MLKRICommission@gmail.com](mailto:MLKRICommission@gmail.com))

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
School

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Phone  
Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal

**PARENT/GUARDIAN**

I hereby grant \_\_\_\_\_ permission to participate in the State of RI Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission's Essay Contest. I understand that if my child's essay is selected as a winning entry, he/she may be expected to read aloud his/her composition at the MLK Virtual Celebration scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021. I further authorize the Commission and/or the Providence Journal to capture photos, videos of my child for marketing/promotional purposes. Additionally, I certify that my child's submission is his/her original work and does not contain plagiarized content. I understand that my child's entry may be disqualified if it is found in violation of this agreement. No entries are returned. Contest judging is performed by a delegation of Commissioners, representatives of the Providence Journal and community volunteers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Tutor Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Tutor Phone Number and Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City and Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date