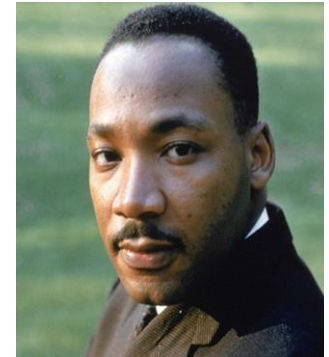




The State of Rhode Island
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

presents the
Annual Essay Contest

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



CONTEST RULES

- Entries must be from RI middle or high school students.
- Essay must be typed in Microsoft Word format and limited to 500-750 words (middle school) or 750-1000 words (high school.)
- Submission must include completed Parental Permission form (attached) and be submitted individually as the original work of only one student.
- Essay and Parental Permission form MUST be electronically submitted to RIMLKESSAY@gmail.com.
- The Commission reserves the right to promote, publish, and/or distribute any or all entries.
- Four winners will be chosen, 2 middle school and 2 high school. Prizes of \$200 for first place and \$100 for second place will be awarded for each level.

The Entry Deadline is December 2, 2024

Middle school essay prompt

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was especially inspired by gospel singer Mahalia Jackson, who joined him at several rallies.

Which musicians or artists do you connect to King's legacy of activism, equality, and peace? Quote some of their lyrics and include them in your essay about Dr. King.

Expectations are that your essay letter will contain well-organized thoughts that are clear and concise, as well as proper use of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.

Middle school and high school students will read their winning submissions at school and at the annual MLK State Commission Ceremony scheduled for Monday, January 20, 2025.

High school essay prompt

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once wrote, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Reflect on how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. connected civil rights leaders and everyday people across identities, workplaces, churches, and communities. Explore how Dr. King's strategy is used or could be used to address an important civil rights issue today.

Expectations are that your essay will contain well-organized thoughts that are clear and concise, as well as proper use of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation.