

School District of Williamsburg County

Post Office Box 1067 – Kingstree, South Carolina 29556

Telephone (843) 355-5571 Fax (843) 355-3333

“Dr. Martin Luther King’s Dream: 50 Years in Action” In Commemoration of Dr. King’s Visit to Kingstree, SC on May 8, 1966

Essay Contest Official Rules and Guidelines

Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12

This WCSD Essay Contest is open to all 4th through 12th grade students. Three overall district winners will be selected: one elementary school (4-5) student, one middle school (6-8) student, and one high school (9-12) student. All school level and district level winners will be recognized at a planned district event. **District level winners will be notified by April 30, 2016.**

Entries must be hand-delivered by the school principal or principal’s designee by **April 22, 2016. No entry will be accepted after that date.**

Essay Prompts: All 4-12 participants should view the “I Have a Dream” speech and read the speech’s text. All 6-12 students should also view the speech that Dr. King delivered on Sunday, May 8, 1966 on the Tomlinson Field of Kingstree, SC. All can be found widely on the Internet, but links have been provided below:

Video of “I Have a Dream”: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRIF4_WzU1w

Text of “I Have a Dream”: <http://www.archives.gov/press/exhibits/dream-speech.pdf>

Video of speech given in Kingstree, SC: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FKUQ1-zU58>

On August 28, 1963, civil rights activists led the March on Washington for ***Jobs and Freedom*** to draw attention to the importance of equality for all races, genders, religions and nationalities. The highlight of this march was Martin Luther King, Jr.’s historic “I Have a Dream” speech where he shared the dreams he envisioned for a better America.

On May 8, 1966, Dr. King visited Kingstree, SC and gave a moving speech to community members wherein he promoted civic responsibilities and reiterated Civil Rights themes.

9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Grade student essays should address the following topic:
Describe a time when you or someone you know took a bold stand for or against an issue and the outcome of that action. (600-750 words)

6th, 7th & 8th Grade student essays should address the following topic: *Describe a dream you have to make the world a better place, and what will it take to make this change in today's society. (450-600 words)*

4th & 5th Grade student essays should address the following topic: *Describe something you wish would happen to make the world a better place to live. (400-500 words)*

Specifications

- ★ Each student may enter only one essay. All essays must be typed in Times New Roman, double-spaced, with one inch margins.
- ★ This is evidence-based writing, so the students should use quotes or paraphrased statements from the speeches or other research based material.
- ★ The essays should be written using the appropriate MLA citations if needed.
- ★ Essays submitted must include a cover sheet with student's name, home address, telephone number, the school the student attends, grade level, title of the essay, and a word count.
- ★ Essays must meet the word count specification for the student's grade span, as noted above.

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School Level Information **Below is a suggested timeline for writing the essay.**

All 4th -12th grade students enrolled in an English course will be assigned the essay as a class grade. This essay will count as one of the required essays for this semester. All high school students who are not enrolled in an English course but would like the opportunity to participate should be given a copy of the **Essay Contest Rules and Official Guidelines**.

- **February 2016-March 2016**
- The E/LA or Social Studies teacher will allow the students to view the MLK “I Have a Dream” speech as they follow along with the text of the speech
- The E/LA or Social Studies teacher will allow the students to discuss major points from the text (annotate text) and speech using graphic organizers
- The E/LA teachers will discuss the rubric and essay prompt as it pertains to writing the essay.
- The E/LA teachers will then allow the students’ time to write the essay throughout the month of February. The essay can be written during school time and at home. The teacher may designate a part of a day in the week for students to write the essay. (EX: the last 20 minutes of each Thursday). Students can bring in external sources or research information as needed.
- Teachers should collect all essays before the end of March 2016.
- **March, 2016-April 2016**
- The teachers should have remarks and notations of errors along with a score on all student essays. The essays should be returned to students by March 20, 2016.
- The students will have until mid-April 2016 to rewrite their essays.
- Teachers should rescore all essays and then choose the top essay from each grade level. The principal and his/her designee will choose the top essay from each grade span within the school (4-5, 6-8, 9-12). The winning essay(s) should be submitted with the specifications listed. All winning essays should be submitted to Angela McClary-Rush, English/Language Arts Coordinator, by April 22, 2016. Essays will be judged by local business and elected leaders. **District level winners will be notified by April 30.**

School level winners will each receive a certificate, and a monetary award.

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**Essay Entry Parental/Legal Guardian Waiver Form
(School Level Winners Only)**

Student Name:

Grade Level:

Essay Title:

Word Count:

Name of School:

Home Mailing Address:

Home Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

Release Statement:

As parent or guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own, the essay will be subject to disqualification.

Signature, parent/guardian name, and contact phone number:

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Print)

Parent/Guardian Telephone Number

~I HAVE A DREAM~

