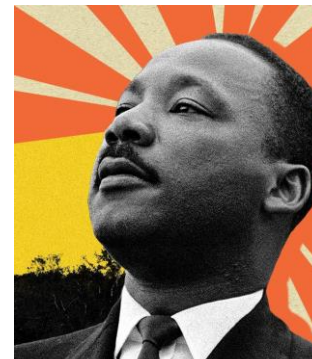




The State of Rhode Island
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission
presents the
Annual Essay Contest

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 RIMLKESAY@gmail.com.
- The Commission reserves the right to promote, publish, and/or distribute any or all entries.
- Four winners will be chosen, 2 middle and 2 high school. Prizes of \$100 for first place and \$50 for second place will be awarded for each level.

The Entry Deadline is Friday, December 15, 2023

Essay Theme: “Marching to the Beat of Justice”

(Used with permission from the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Planning Committee of New Bedford)

“We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history there is such a thing as being too late...”

- Martin Luther King, Jr., Riverside Church, New York, April 4, 1967

- Describe an injustice you see today.
 - How would you take the lead as a drum major for justice?
 - How do the works and acts of Martin Luther King, Jr. inspire you in your quest?
 - Be sure to reference speeches or writings of Dr. King in your submission.

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 15, 2024.