

# 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

## Theme

Each year on the third Monday of January we celebrate *the life* and *the dream* of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a time for the nation to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought. He fought for the freedom, dignity, and equality of all races and peoples.

In tribute to the legacy of Dr. King, the Department of Student Programs provides an essay contest for middle level and high school students. Students are asked to reflect on the following quote:

“Ten thousand fools proclaim themselves into obscurity, while one wise man forgets himself into immortality.”

As you write your essay reflect on the following questions:  
How do you feel about this quote?  
What does this quote mean to you?  
How can you use these words to honor Dr. King and the life he lived?

## Guidelines for Submission

1. The contest is open to Indiana students in grades 6-12.
2. Each participating school may submit up to 5 essays.
3. Essays must not exceed 450 words and must be typed and double-spaced. Titles and inclusion of quote do not count toward the 450-word limit.
4. Essays must not contain any identifying information about the participant (name or school).
5. Schools should complete the initial screening and elimination.
6. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form (see below). If an official entry form is not available, print the student and school information on a separate sheet of paper or download a form from [www.iasp.org/mlkessay](http://www.iasp.org/mlkessay)
7. Essays and entry forms should be emailed to [hmassingale@iasp.org](mailto:hmassingale@iasp.org) or mailed to IASP:  
11025 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229
8. Contest entries become the property of IASP.



## Judging Criteria

Entries will be judged on the basis of:

- Content/Development (50%) – addresses quote, responds to three stated questions, organization, evidence to support position
- Language & Mechanics (50%) – sentence structure, word choice, grammar

## Awards

Awards will be given in two age groups: grades 6-8 and grades 9-12:

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$500; 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$300; 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$200

## Deadline

All entries must be postmarked or emailed by February 24, 2012. Winners will be notified in mid-April.

Email to: [hmassingale@iasp.org](mailto:hmassingale@iasp.org) with subject line MLK essay. Email confirmation will be sent.

Mail entries to: IASP, Heidi Massingale, 11025 East 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229.

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## 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest Entry Form

**Student Information** (Information is used only to verify contestants and schools of winners. Please print clearly)

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Family email \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information** (please print clearly)

Name of school \_\_\_\_\_

School D.O.E. # \_\_\_\_\_

School address \_\_\_\_\_

School City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's email \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only:

Contestant Number \_\_\_\_\_

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