To: Language Arts / History Teachers

2020

Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

Sponsored by
The Indiana Association of School Principals and Ball State University

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.

Students are asked to write their essay based on this MLK quote:

“An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity”

Contest parameters include:

- Open to students in grades 6 – 12
- Free for Department of Student Programs member schools; $10 per essay for non-DSP schools
- Limit of 5 essays per school accepted, with schools completing the initial screening and elimination
- 450 word limit, NOT counting the title and inclusion of the quote
- Essay must be typed into the online submission form found at www.iasp.org/dsp/essay.

Judging parameters include:

- Content/Development: Addresses quote, responds to three stated questions (see below), organization, evidence to support position
- Language & Mechanics: Sentence structure, word choice, grammar

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?

Awards will be presented in two age groups: grades 6 - 8 and grades 9 – 12.

- First place: $500
- Second place: $300
- Third place: $200

Essays must be submitted electronically. The submission link can be found at www.iasp.org/dsp/essay.

Entry deadline is February 28, 2020