Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc.
2022 Student Essay Competition



Living the Dream, Inc. is sponsoring its **20th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Essay Competition** for Topeka area students in grades first through twelve.

Awards and Recognition

Certificates and awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade category. Essay winners will be notified by email and announced through a special virtual presentation on the **King Holiday, Monday, January 17, 2022.** Each winner's name will also be printed in the Topeka Capital-Journal or on-line as print space allows.

Essay Grade Categories

The essays will be judged in the following grade competition categories:

▪1st -2nd Grade ▪3-4th Grade ▪5-6th Grade ▪7-8th Grade ▪9-10th Grade ▪11-12th Grade

Essay Guidelines

- **Grades 1st - 6th - TYPED (100 words or more)**
- **Grades 7th - 12th - TYPED (500 words or more)**
- All **electronic** entries submitted should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in a neat format. The student's name should **only** appear on the Essay Competition entry form.
- Failure to comply with the entry rules will result in the essay not being eligible for judging or awards.
- **Graduating high school seniors must submit a separate essay for the Living the Dream, Inc. College Scholarship Application. The Student Essay Competition essay does not serve in the place of the College Scholarship Application essay submission.**

Essay Themes

The essay should represent the writer's interpretation of diversity, peace, unity, justice, human rights, or non-violence as reflected in quotes or principles from civil rights leaders such as **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma K. Gandhi, César E. Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, NAACP Legal Defense Attorney Charles Hamilton Houston, Topeka Attorneys Charles Scott, John Scott, and Charles Bledsoe or another great civil rights leader.** Students may also submit an essay that promotes the **2022 Living the Dream Theme*: "We Must Accept Finite Disappointment, But Never Lose Infinite Hope."***

Where Do I Email My Essay?

All essays and completed entry forms should be emailed to: **Betty Young, Chairperson, Living the Dream Essay Competition at: byoung@tps501.org.** If you should have questions about the Essay Competition, please contact Ms. Young at (785) 295-3240.

When is the Essay Competition Deadline?

All **electronic** entries must be submitted no later than **4:30 pm on Monday, December 6, 2021.** All winners will be notified by email during the week of January 3, 2022.

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2022 Student Essay Competition Entry Form

School Name_____ **Teacher**_____
(**Please print or type)**

Teacher's Email Address_____

Grade Category (Please check your grade category below.)

□ 1st-2nd Grade □ 3rd-4th Grade □ 5th-6th Grade □ 7th-8th Grade □ 9th-10th Grade □ 11th-12th Grade

Student's Name _____**Student's Age**_____**Grade**_____

Student's Address _____

Student's Phone Number_____ **Student's Email Address**_____

Title of Essay_____

I understand that my child's essay will be entered and judged in the **Living the Dream, Inc. 2022 Student Essay Competition**. I further understand and consent to any subsequent printing and display of the essay as deemed appropriate by Living the Dream, Inc. I understand my child's essay is submitted for the sole purpose of the Essay Competition and will not be sold or otherwise used for any commercial purpose unless permission is given by me, as parent or guardian of the above named student. I understand this essay will only be considered if **submitted by 4:30 pm on Monday, December 6, 2021.** I consent to the use of this submission to be judged in the Essay Competition. I fully understand that my child has no entitlements or guarantees of awards or recognition as a result of this entry, unless he or she is selected as one of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners by the designated judges for this Competition.

Parent/Legal Guardian (Print Name _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____**Date**_____

Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address_____

Parent/Legal Guardian Phone Number_____

Student's Name (Print Name)_____

Student's Signature _____**Date**_____

All essays and the signed Essay entry form must be emailed by 4:30 pm on December 6, 2021 to: Betty Young, Chairperson, Living the Dream Essay Competition at byoung@tps501.org. If you should have questions regarding the Essay Competition, please email or contact Ms. Young at (785) 295-3240.