

September 16, 2014

**\*Announcement\***

**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Utah State Office of Education (USOE)  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay & Video Contest**

Dear Students and Educators,

The Utah State Office of Education (USOE), Educational Equity Section, invites secondary education students to enter the 31<sup>st</sup> annual USOE Martin Luther King Jr. Essay & Video Contest in honor of Dr. King's birthday and lasting legacy. This contest is an opportunity for Utah's seventh through twelfth graders to continue to find new meaning and applications for the legacy Dr. King left to the world in the area of human and civil rights.

Three years ago, a video category was introduced. We are excited to include it again this year. Students have the choice to submit essays or videos to enter the contest. There will be eight Grade Level winners and four Grand Prize winners selected!

Winning students will receive cash prizes and Grand Prize High School winners will also receive a scholarship (group entries receive partial scholarships) to the Utah Inclusion Center's Anytown (summer camp). Anytown lasts for six days during the summer, during which students (i.e., delegates) dive into engaging exercises and honest dialogue to develop the self-awareness, education, conflict resolution, and communication skills necessary to peacefully resolve prejudice and bigotry.

Teachers are encouraged to facilitate classroom discussion and suggest that students discuss the topic with their families. This may help students focus on their own experiences and assist them in forming ideas, opinions, and answers that will be useful for their essays or videos. Enclosed is a page on theme development that can be used as a catalyst to assist students in writing their essays or producing their videos.

Please read this packet carefully, as all entries must comply with the rules and regulations for this contest in order to be selected as winners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Amanda Charlesworth

Program Specialist

Utah State Office of Education

Educational Equity

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## **31<sup>st</sup> Annual USOE Martin Luther King, Jr. Contest Instructions**

- WHO:** 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Utah public school, charter school and private school students are eligible to enter the contest.
- WHAT:** Essay Entry: Typed, 500 words or less  
Video Entry: Three (3) minutes or less
- WHEN:** **All entries must be delivered, e-mailed, or postmarked on or before the contest deadline of Tuesday, October 21, 2014.**
- HOW:** As you write your essay, or create your video, reflect on the following quote and answer the two questions.

### **2015 CONTEST THEME QUOTE:**

***“Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service.” — Martin Luther King, Jr.***

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does this quote mean to you?
2. How can you use this quote to honor Dr. King, and the legacy he left the world?

### **WHY:**

To honor Dr. King’s birthday and legacy of civil rights, unity, equality and human rights. Students should study the writings and speeches of Dr. King. They should have an understanding of what Dr. King valued and believed, what he preached and taught, and how our society is different because of his legacy.

**PRIZES:** Awards will be given in two age groups: grades 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> and grades 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

### **Grand Prize Winners:**

- Essay (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)—\$150 cash prize
- Video (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)—\$150 cash prize (prize divided for group entries)
- Essay (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)—\$150 cash prize and scholarship to Camp Anytown
- Video (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)—\$150 cash prize and scholarship to Camp Anytown (prizes divided for group entries)

### **Grade Level Winners (2 winners each category):**

- Essay (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)—\$50 cash prize
- Essay (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)—\$50 cash prize
- Video (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)—\$50 cash prize (prize divided for group entries)
- Video (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)—\$50 cash prize (prize divided for group entries)

**In addition, all Grand Prize and Grade Level winners** will be invited to attend a **Student Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 from 12:00-2:00 p.m.**, at the Davis School District Kendell Building at 70 East 100 North, Farmington, Utah, where there will be a short program that includes a keynote speaker and students receiving their awards.

**RIGHTS:** By participating in the contest, participants give the Utah State Office of Education the right to reproduce essays and videos for publicity purposes.

**\*Entries will not be returned. Entry form can be found on the last page of this packet.\***

### **Essay Requirements:**

- All essays entries must be 500 words or less. (Poems will not be accepted; entries must be essays of one or more paragraphs.)
- All essay entries must be **typed** and double-spaced.
- **Do not list students' names on the essays themselves**; essays are judged anonymously.
- No cover sheets or report covers.
- **Two (2) complete copies of the essay entry must be submitted.**
- **Original submissions only**—entries must be the original work of the entrant and not previously published.
- To enter students should complete the entry form, **have it signed** by a parent/guardian, and PAPERCLIP the entry form to both of the complete copies of the essay.
- Essays will be judged on content, impact, creativity, and mechanics.

**DEADLINE:** Essay entries must be postmarked, emailed, or delivered by **Tuesday, October 21, 2014.**

### **Video Requirements:**

- Three (3) minutes maximum, including all credits for sources used.
- **Do not list students' name(s) in the video; only list student information on the entry form(s).** Videos will be judged anonymously.
- If students create a video and enter as a group, any prizes will be divided among the group's members. For group winners, the Inclusion Center will offer the group a 50% discount off Anytown camp registration per student.
- **Original submissions only**—entries must be the original work of the entrant and not previously published.
- You may not use any copyrighted material, including music, trademarks, movie clips, etc., that is owned by someone else. **Videos containing copyrighted music or materials will not be accepted.**
- **Music:** Entrants may use **their own original music, or they must use** <http://www.soundzabound.com/>.
  - Entrants using the music provided are not permitted to post videos anywhere on the Internet, unless linked from an official Utah State Office of Education website or social media account.
  - ALL music sources must be listed in the credits.
- PowerPoint, etc. may be used in place of video formats/equipment.
- File Size: File size should not exceed 2 GB.
- Format: Only widely known formats and codecs may be used.
- Videos should have a 16:9 or 4:3 ratio with a resolution of at least 640 x 360 or 640 x 480.
- Bitrate must be at least 700 kbs.
- Pixel ratio must be 1:1.
- Videos should not be interlaced.
- To enter students should complete the entry form, **have it signed** by a parent/guardian, and CLIP the entry form to the DVD case.
- Videos will be judged on overall content, impact, creativity, and mechanics.

**DEADLINE:** Video entries must be postmarked or delivered by **Tuesday, October 21, 2014.**

## **Theme Development**

- Students should focus on Dr. King’s vision of living in a nation united and not segregated by race, class or creed, and consider how they are demonstrating this vision by providing examples from their own lives.
- Students should focus on Dr. King’s Principles of Nonviolence.
- Students should focus on how we as a nation can eliminate racism, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, and violence—the things that Dr. King challenged us to eliminate from our society.
- All well-done entries should be both informative and motivational.
- In addition, entries will be judged on creativity and the student's ability to offer personal insights, show new ways to look at issues, and propose original solutions to unsolved problems.
- **No racist or offensive comments or materials may be included. If an entry has racist or offensive content it will not be accepted.**
- Students should focus on “**Promises to Keep**,” the vision and mission of the Utah State Board of Education and Utah State Office of Education.

### **Promises to Keep: The Vision of Public Education**

Utah’s public education system is created in the state Constitution to “secure and perpetuate” freedom.

Freedom, as envisioned in the Utah Constitution, is a promise to future generations that requires:

- Citizen participation in civic and political affairs.
- Economic prosperity for the community.
- Strong moral and social values.
- Loyalty and commitment to constitutional government.

(Full text available at <http://schoolboard.utah.gov/board-mission.>)

- Students should also focus on how the **REACH Basic Principles** can be applied in theme development:
  - Actively engage multiple perspectives.
  - Recognize that culture is something everybody has.
  - Build cultural bridges.
  - Connect the head with the heart with the hands for healing.
  - Be a role model for co-responsibility.

## **Definition of Terms**

**CONTENT:** Content is the student's idea (thesis). Essays/videos should generate fresh, independent ideas in the application of Dr. King's ideas to the issues of racism, discrimination and justice. The ideas should be sustained and developed throughout the essay/video.

**CLARITY:** Clarity is the straightforwardness of the student's explanation of how Dr. King's vision has an impact on his/her life.

**CONTINUITY:** Continuity is the orderly progression of an essay/video from one thought to the next. Usually, this is apparent in the flow and growth from one idea to the next. An essay/video with continuity "feels" like an idea is growing. Ideas, examples, and paraphrasing should be presented in a manner and sequence that is not changeable.

**RELATIONSHIP TO THEME:** The essay/video fulfills the purpose of the topic. Students should measure their own lives and goals beside the vision, principles, and beliefs of Dr. King. The essay/video *does not digress or inappropriately dwell* on Dr. King's ideas or contemporary issues. The essay/video sustains a focus on how each student can apply Dr. King's ideas to his/her own life, along with the theme, write an essay or create an original video responding to this year's theme.

**As you write your essay or create your video, reflect on the following quote and answer the two questions:**

**Quote:** *"Everyone has the power for greatness, not for fame but greatness, because greatness is determined by service."* — Martin Luther King, Jr.

### **Questions:**

1. How do you feel about Dr. King's quote?
2. How can you use this quote to honor Dr. King and the legacy he left the world?

**UNITY:** Unity includes the essay's diction, metaphors, images, tone, and all matters of style. These matters need to be consistent and make the essays/videos content (ideas) more effective. Unity includes the appropriateness of rhetorical devices such as questions, hyperbole, understatement, sentence structures, and inductive/deductive development of paragraphs.

**MECHANICS:** Mechanics includes all matters of Standard English. Besides correctness, mechanics are best thought of as how well the author utilizes the resources of grammar and usage to create an effect and make clear his/her point.

**EFFECTIVENESS:** Effectiveness includes evaluating the essay's/video's success at creating an effect. Have we been moved and brought to a new insight, a new clarity of feeling and thought? The most effective essays/videos avoid overwriting (the excessive and inappropriate use of language to shock and draw attention).

## **Websites About Martin Luther King, Jr.**

To view videos of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s speeches:

- [The MLK Jr. Research and Education Institute: http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/resources/index.php](http://mlk-kpp01.stanford.edu/index.php/resources/index.php)
- The King Center: <http://www.thekingcenter.org/>

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Principles of Nonviolence**

**Nonviolent resistance** is not a method for cowards. Though not physically aggressive toward his opponent, the nonviolent resister constantly seeks to persuade an opponent that he is wrong.

**Nonviolence** does not seek to defeat or humiliate an opponent, but aims to win his friendship and understanding.

**The nonviolent attack** is directed at the forces of evil, rather than against people who happen to be doing evil.

**Nonviolent resistance** is a willingness to accept blows from an opponent without striking back.

**Nonviolent resistance** avoids not only external physical violence but also internal violence of the spirit. One not only refuses to shoot his opponent but also refuses to hate him.

**Nonviolent resistance** is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice, resulting in a deep faith in the future.

(Martin Luther King, Jr., *Stride Toward Freedom*. New York: Harper & Row, 1958.)

### **"I Have a Dream" by Martin Luther King, Jr.**

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of captivity.

But one hundred years later, we must face the tragic fact that the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later the Negro is still languishing in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize an appalling condition.

In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise, that all men would be guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check: a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds."

But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vault of opportunity in this nation. So we have come to cash this check – a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot, to remind America of the fierce urgency of NOW. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. NOW is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation, to the sunlit path of

racial justice. NOW is the time to open the doors of opportunity to all of God's children. NOW is the time to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment and to underestimate the determination of the Negro. This sweltering summer of the Negroes' legitimate discontent will not pass, until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. 1963 is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation, until the bright day of justice emerges.

But there is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny and their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied, as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied, until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our modern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, that in spite of the difficulties and frustrations of the moment, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a desert state sweltering with the heat of injustice and oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day the state of Alabama, whose governor's lips are presently dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith with which I return to the South. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my father's died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous peaks of California!

But not only that; let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual,

"Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



**2015 USOE MLK Contest – Entry Form**

**Essay & Video Entries:** MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR ESSAY or DVD DIRECTLY TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

**All information must be completed, photo release signed by Parent/Guardian, and received/postmarked by **Tuesday, October 21, 2014.****

<b>Student Name:</b>		
<b>Grade:</b>	<b>Age:</b>	
<b>Teacher’s Name:</b>		
<b>Teacher’s E-mail:</b>		
<b>Student’s School:</b>		
<b>School Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>School Phone:</b>		
<b>Home Address:</b>		
<b>City:</b>	<b>State:</b>	<b>Zip:</b>
<b>Home Phone Number:</b>		
<b>Title of Essay or Video:</b>		

**UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION – PHOTO/VIDEO RELEASE FORM**

I hereby grant the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) permission to use my child(ren)’s likeness in a photograph and/or video in any and all of its publications, including website entries, without payment or other consideration.

I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of USBE and will not be returned. I hereby irrevocably authorize USBE to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo for purposes of publicizing USBE’s programs or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my child’s likeness appears.

Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photograph.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge USBE from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

I have read this release before signing below and I fully understand the contents, meaning, and impact of this release. I hereby certify that I am the parent or guardian of

\_\_\_\_\_, the child(ren) referred to above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to USBE on behalf of this person.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian’s Signature)      (Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian’s Printed Name)

**Mail Contest Entries to:**  
Amanda Charlesworth  
Utah State Office of Education  
Educational Equity  
250 East 500 South  
P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200