



# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST



Sponsored by:

**Brazos Valley Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
&  
Brazos Valley African American Museum**

The contest is open to all students in grades K-12, private, home, and parochial schools of the Brazos Valley. The intent of the Poster/Essay Contest is:

- ✘ to provide all students in each area school with an opportunity to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his message and his work;
- ✘ to give students opportunity to reflect on our present and the future in light of Dr. King's message; and
- ✘ to encourage continued study through awards and recognition that can hopefully help students continue their lives and education with a permanent appreciation for Dr. King.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students compete in five grade categories: K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12.

## **CRITERIA (K-12):**

An essay meeting the following criteria must accompany each required poster. Please attach the essay component, written on a separate piece of paper to back of poster.

- ✘ **K-1** / at least one complete sentence and poster.
- ✘ **2-3** / at least three complete sentences and poster
- ✘ **4-5** / at least five complete sentences and poster
- ✘ **6-8** / approximately 300-500 words (essay) and poster
- ✘ **9-12** / approximately 500-750 words (research paper). Poster is optional. Attach name, teacher and school on separate sheet of paper.
- ✘

## THEMES

- ✘ **K-1**            **“How do I create Peace & Unity in my home?”**
- ✘ **2 – 3**           **“How do I create Peace & Unity in my neighborhood or Community?”**
- ✘ **5 – 6**           **“How will I create Peace & Unity in the world?”**
- 6 – 12**           **“How does the election of an African American president affect us: Me, my country and the world. Include in your paper the contributions to keep the dreams and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other civil rights activists alive. A drawing or poster illustration is optional.**

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- ✘ Poster and essay must reference theme or Martin Luther King Jr. “Dreams” or challenges
- ✘ K-5 Essays **may** be typed.
- ✘ 6-12 Essays **must** be typed double-spaced on white, 8 ½ x 11 paper. Each page should be numbered consecutively. Entries should be **stapled securely together**, not paper clipped.
- ✘ For posters use pencils, crayons, paints, markers or colored pencils.
- ✘ Posters should not be larger than 12” x 18” on white paper for all age groups.
- ✘ Poster lamination is optional.

## TITLE PAGE: *(Please read carefully)*

- ✘ Each entry **must** include a **title page** containing the following information: (This information should appear **only** on the title page since the essays will be judged with this page removed.)
  - The Title: (Listed for grade category entered).
  - Student Name, grade, home address and phone number if entry is **not** submitted by the school.
  - Name of School (teacher’s name for contact) and grade level.

**INFORMATION:** Entry Information is also available at the museum or on the following sites:

Brazos Valley African American Museum  
[www.bvaam.org](http://www.bvaam.org)

Texas A&M African-American Professional Organization  
<http://aapo.tamu.edu>

Brazos Valley Area Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
[www.bvaadst.com](http://www.bvaadst.com)

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Dr. La Verne Young- Hawkins at (979) 691-2902 or [laverne@tamu.edu](mailto:laverne@tamu.edu) or Mrs. Agnes Gray at (979) 778-7085, [agray1913@yahoo.com](mailto:agray1913@yahoo.com) or [Agnes.Gray@tyc.state.tx.us](mailto:Agnes.Gray@tyc.state.tx.us)

**SUGGESTED READING:** All entrants are encouraged to read at least one of Dr. King's essays or speeches in preparation for entering the contest. The following readings in light of the theme for this year are suggested as a help to students not as a requirement.

- ✘ Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? (1967)
- ✘ The Trumpet of Conscience (1967)
- ✘ I Have A Dream (1963)
- ✘ Why We Can’t Wait (1963)--Dr. King’s own account of his work in Birmingham

✘ The Power of Nonviolence (1958)

Many of Dr. King's writings can be found in *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, edited by James M. Washington, Harper and Row, Publishers.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE:** We would appreciate teachers, parents and other community member's assistance in encouraging students to enter the competition. The essay and poster should be the work of the student. Teachers may offer suggestions for improvement or correction, but all content should be the student's own thinking and all writing and drawings must be done by the student.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

I.	Content--Interpretation of and adherence to the theme	30%
II.	Expression--Choice of words, imagery, and style	30%
III.	Form--Organization, neatness, and presentation	10%
IV.	Mechanics--Grammar, spelling, and punctuation	20%
V.	Overall Presentation-- Interest, appeal, clarity, and adherence to contest rules	<u>10%</u>
		100%

Essays will be judged carefully on the basis of these criteria and compliance with the rules of the contest. A panel of judges will select the final winners. The judges will not know the entrants' names or schools at the time of judging.

**PRIZES:** Three winners will be determined in each grade-level category. U.S. Savings Bonds will be issued for each prize.

K-1	First \$25	Second, \$20	Third, \$15
2-3	First, \$25	Second, \$20	Third, \$15
5-4	First, \$50	Second, \$25	Third, \$20
6- 8	First, \$75	Second, \$50	Third, \$25
9-12	First, \$100	Second, \$75	Third, \$50.00

**DEADLINE:** All entries must be mailed (and received) or delivered by Monday, January 12, 2009 at 5pm to the *Brazos Valley African American Museum*.

**BVAAM  
500 E. Pruitt Street  
Bryan Texas, 77803  
(979) 775-3961**

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNERS** will be made Monday, January 19, 2009. Awards will be presented at the MLK March and Program on January 19, 2009. First place winners will be invited to read their essay's during the MLK program. Winning essay's and posters will be displayed at the BVAA Museum through February, 2009.

**PUBLICATION PERMISSION:** By entering the contest, students give their permission for their essays to be formatted and/or printed and displayed, as well as to be distributed to the community and the media.



Brazos Valley Area Alumnae Chapter  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2222  
Bryan, TX 77802  
Agnes Gray, President

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Bryan Texas, 77803  
(979) 775-3961  
Velma Spivey, Director

***BEST WISHES!***