

The Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
Short Essay Contest
Official Rules

Eligibility: The contest is open to students currently enrolled at a high school in Maryland.

Members of the immediate family of Board members of the Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association are not eligible to participate.

Participation constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to these Official Rules and to Sponsor's decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the contest.

Requirements for entry submissions:

Essays must be a minimum of 475 words and a maximum of 500 words, not including title and contact information. Essays must be written in English and submitted in either Word® or PDF format. Essays must be written in 12 point Times New Roman, Arial, Calibri, or Courier font.

Essays must be submitted via e-mail to slaneweber@oag.state.md.us by 11:59 p.m., March 12, 2018. Late submissions will not be considered. The Maryland Chapter of the FBA is not responsible for transmission errors or difficulties.

An essay submission must contain the student's name, address, telephone number, high school name, and grade level. This information does **not** count toward the word limit.

Any Essay submitted that does not comply with the word count limits, or is not in one of the accepted formats, as applicable, will be disqualified.

Each student is limited to one (1) essay submission.

Each essay will be reviewed by a panel of judges who will select the winners based on the following criterion: originality (30%); language arts skills (30%); faithfulness to the theme (30%); and clarity (10%). The theme is "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and its meaning to me."

The decision of the judges in all respects is final.

To claim their prizes, winners under the age of 18 years old must have the written consent of a parent or legal guardian which will be provided to the Sponsor before a prize is awarded.

Prizes will be paid via check and presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial celebration on April 12, 2018 at the U.S. District Court house in Baltimore. The winners will present their essays at the celebration. The winners may be asked to sign releases if the celebration is videotaped.

ALL Submissions:

- MUST be the Entrant's original idea (modification of an original work is not an original idea). Submissions MUST NOT copy or otherwise plagiarize from any source.

- MUST NOT contain material which is (or promote activities which are) in Sponsor's sole discretion, hateful, slanderous, libelous, tortious, sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, inappropriate, violent, discriminatory (based on race, sex, religion, natural origin, physical disability, sexual orientation or age), illegal (*e.g.*, underage drinking, substance abuse, computer hacking, etc.), threatening, profane, or harassing; or contain material that is threatening to any person, place, business, group or world peace; or contain words or symbols that are widely considered threatening to individuals of a certain race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or socioeconomic group; or contain images, words or text portraying nudity, acts of violence, or acts that are or appear to be unlawful or dangerous or in violation of, or contrary to the laws or regulations in any state where the Entry is created in their application.
- MUST NOT contain material that violates or infringes another's rights, including but not limited to material that violates privacy, publicity, or intellectual property rights, or that constitutes copyright infringement.
- By entering, each entrant warrants and represents that his/her entry is original, has not been previously published or won any award, does not contain any material that would defame or otherwise violate or infringe upon the rights of any third party, including patents, copyrights, trademarks or rights of privacy or publicity, and will not violate any federal, state or local laws or ordinances. Entrants further warrant and represent that they have secured the requisite consent from any third party referenced in their entries. Sponsor reserves the right in its sole and unfettered discretion to disqualify any entry that it believes contains obscene, or inappropriate content, that does not comply with these Official Rules or that is not consistent with the spirit or theme of the Contest.

PUBLICITY; LIMITATIONS OF LIABILITY AND RELEASES: BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONTEST, ENTRANT AGREES THAT SPONSOR, AFFILIATES, SUBSIDIARIES, REPRESENTATIVES, CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS, LEGAL COUNSEL, ADVERTISING, PUBLIC RELATIONS, PROMOTIONAL, FULFILLMENT AND MARKETING, WEBSITE PROVIDERS, WEB MASTERS, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES, REPRESENTATIVES, AND AGENTS (THE "RELEASED PARTIES") WILL HAVE NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER FOR, AND SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS BY ENTRANTS AGAINST, ANY LIABILITY FOR ANY INJURIES, LOSSES OR DAMAGES OF ANY KIND TO PERSONS, INCLUDING PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH, OR PROPERTY RESULTING IN WHOLE OR IN PART, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FROM ACCEPTANCE, POSSESSION, MISUSE, OR USE OF THE PRIZE, ENTRY OR PARTICIPATION IN THIS CONTEST OR IN ANY CONTEST RELATED ACTIVITY, OR ANY CLAIMS BASED ON PUBLICITY RIGHTS, DEFAMATION OR INVASION OF PRIVACY, OR MERCHANDISE DELIVERY. THE RELEASED PARTIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE IF ANY PRIZE CANNOT BE AWARDED DUE TO CANCELLATIONS, DELAYS, OR INTERRUPTIONS DUE TO ACTS OF GOD, ACTS OF WAR, NATURAL DISASTERS, WEATHER, OR TERRORISM. BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS CONTEST, ENTRANT AGREES THAT THE RELEASED PARTIES WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE OR LIABLE FOR ANY INJURIES, DAMAGES, OR LOSSES OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR PUNITIVE DAMAGES TO PERSONS, INCLUDING DEATH, OR TO PROPERTY ARISING OUT OF

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DOWNLOADING FROM AND/OR PRINTING MATERIAL DOWNLOADED FROM SUCH
SITE.

If you have questions, please contact Stephanie Lane-Weber via telephone at (410) 576-6340 or
via email at slaneweber@oag.state.md.us.