

2018 MOTHERLODE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMITTEE
Grade 6-8 ESSAY CONTEST
R U L E S

1. The MLMLKJr. Essay Contest is open to all sixth through 8th grade students who are residents of Tuolumne or attend any public, private, or home school in Tuolumne.
2. Submit one copy of your essay Essays in grades 6-8 must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double-spaced. Use one side of white paper 8-1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly.
3. Give your essay a title. Place the title on the first page where you begin your essay. DO NOT use a separate title or cover page.
4. Attach a 3"x5" index card with your **name, school, grade, teacher's name** on the index card. **YOUR NAME SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Motherlode Martin Luther King Jr. Committee reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries are to be mailed to Motherlode Martin Luther King Junior Committee, P.O. Box 254, Tuolumne, CA 95379, postmarked no later than **Wednesday, February 7, 2018** or send via school Pony to Merv Cancio at Curtis Creek Elementary.

Judging:

Local educators and MLKJr. Committee members will judge the essays. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

- I. **Content:**
 - a. Does the essay demonstrate an awareness of and concern for furthering the ideals and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?
 - b. How well developed are the ideas?
 - c. Does the essay address the given topic?
- II. **Style:**
 - a. Is the essay original and interesting?
 - b. Is it written with conviction?
 - c. Does the personality of the writer come through?
- III. **Clarity of expression:**
 - a. Are the ideas clearly stated?
 - b. Is the essay well organized?
 - c. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?
- IV. **Mechanics:**
 - a. Are the grammar, spelling and punctuation reasonably correct?
 - b. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?

First, Second and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the three divisions that have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division, at the discretion of the judging panel.

All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Notification of winners:

Winners will be notified by May 2, 2018. Participating teachers will be given a \$25 gift certificate to Schnoogs Café.

This Essay Contest is a project of the Motherlode Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, www.mlmartinlutherkingjr.org

Prizes

Grade 8 1st place \$100 2nd place \$50 3rd place \$25

Grade 7 1st place \$100 2nd place \$50 3rd place \$25

Grade 6 1st place \$100 2nd place \$50 3rd place \$25