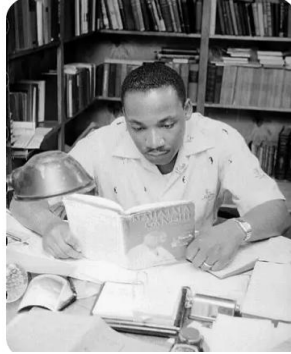


Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Society Tulsa
2026 MLK ESSAY CONTEST
For Students in Grades 6-8



**Sponsored by: Pepsi Beverages Company &
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Society, Inc.**

Topic: " *Dr. King's dream influences my choices*"

Participants: The contest is open to all middle school students (grades 6-8) in the Tulsa Metro area.

Essay Length: 350 – 500 words

- Words must be counted and noted on the title page
- Dates count as one word
- Information on the title page is not counted in the word count
- Entries must be typed
- Entries must be double-spaced, 12 pt. font, Times New Roman or Georgia
- Provide a list of sources to give credit for the information

Title Page: The title page must include the essay title, contestant's full name, grade, school, sponsoring teacher (if applicable), phone number and email address of parent, and number of words in the essay.

Cash Awards: 1st Place: \$300.00 2nd Place: \$250.00 3rd Place: \$200.00

Judging Criteria: An example of the rubric used by judges is on Page 2.

Note to Teachers: All entries will be accepted for consideration.
Previous 1st place winners are ineligible to enter.

Entry Deadline: Saturday, November 21, 2025

Send Entries To: 2025 MLK Essay Contest
Attn: Pauline Harris
P.O. Box 14025 Tulsa, OK 74159-1025
Entries may also be emailed to Harripa2@k12.tulsaschools.org.
Please call Dr. Pauline Harris at 918-746-6517 with any questions.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest
Dr. King's Dream: Dr. King's dream motivates me to make positive change.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____ School _____

Judging Criteria

Content (1-50 pts)

A	Essay shows originality and creativity	
B	Essay clearly expresses the main idea	
C	Essay includes facts, examples, reasons or specific details to support and elaborate on the main idea	

Organization (1-20 pts)

A	Paragraphs show logical development	
B	Paragraphs contain varied sentence structure and appropriate transitions	
C	Paragraphs show unity of ideas and expression	

Mechanics (1-20 pts)

A	Mechanical and grammatical errors do not distract from the main idea or content	
B	Word count does not exceed 500 words	
C	Essay is typed and double spaced	

Sources (1-10 pts)

A	Sources are listed	
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Total Points _____

Comments:

Judge

