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**1100 Chapline Street T: 304-232-0511**

**Wheeling, WV 26003 F: 304-232-0513**

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YWCA Wheeling is proud to announce the 2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest, also known as the Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest. The Project on Racism Essay Contest honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while encouraging students’ creativity through essay writing. The YWCA Wheeling is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

One of the most important responsibilities of living in a democracy is voicing one’s ideas. Please encourage your students to lend their voices through this essay contest. Everyone who participates is a winner!

Sincerely,

Rita Gupta

Rita Gupta

CDCO Director

Encl: 2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Guidelines

2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Contact Information Sheet

2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Topic

2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Score Sheet for Grades 1 – 4

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2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Score Sheet for Grades 9 – 12 & GED

2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Student Checklist

**2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Guidelines**

**Eligibility**

The 2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest is open to any student in grades 1—12 attending public, private, parochial, or home school in the State of West Virginia; or any student under the age of twenty enrolled in a high school correspondence/GED program in the State of West Virginia.

The student does NOT have to be a U.S. citizen.

**Contact Information Form**

Please submit your Contact Information Form along with your essay. You may use a paper clip to attach the Contact Information Form to the essay, but this is not required. Do NOT staple your Contact Information Form to your essay.

There is no separate registration form.

**Essay Requirements**

Essays should not include any information that identifies the student, teacher, principal, or school. Any essay that includes identifying information will be automatically disqualified.

Essays should be a maximum of two (2) pages.

Essays may be handwritten, typed, or computer-generated.

Essays must be in English.

Essays must be the original work of the student. Parents/teachers/guardians may type or write a student’s work verbatim.

Each student may submit only one (1) essay.

Essays must be in black ink on white paper, double-spaced, and on one side of the paper only.

**Entry Submission**

Entries may be submitted between October 1 – November 1, 2013. Each entry must include both an essay and a Contact Information Form. You will NOT receive acknowledgement of receipt.

Essays and Contact Information Forms may be submitted via e-mail (preferred method), fax, U.S. Postal Service, or hand delivery. YWCA Wheeling is not responsible for entries not received due to network service outages or delays, computer difficulties, or any other technological malfunctions; or for entries that are lost, stolen, misdirected, late, ineligible, incomplete, or mutilated by the U.S. Postal Service.

All entries submitted via e-mail (preferred method) must be received on or before 5:00 pm on November 1, 2013. Please send entries to cdcoadvocate@ywcawheeling and type “Essay submission” in the subject line.

All entries submitted via fax must be received on or before 5:00 pm on November 1, 2013. Please send entries to 304-232-0513 and write “Essay submission” as the recipient.

All entries submitted via U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked on or before November 1, 2013. Please send entries to: YWCA Wheeling, 1100 Chapline St, Wheeling, WV 26003, ATTN: Essay submission

All entries submitted via hand delivery must be received before 5:00 pm on November 1, 2013. Please deliver entries to YWCA Wheeling first floor reception desk at the above address Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**Selection of Winners**

Winners will be selected according to the following criteria: grammar, originality, relevance to theme, and effective expression. Winners will be announced at the beginning of December. All judgments are final.

**Conditions**

All submitted entries shall become the property of the YWCA Wheeling, and no submission will be acknowledged or returned. The copyright of the essay remains the exclusive property of the entrant.

If any submission commits plagiarism or violates copyright, the entrant is solely responsible for the act(s). The YWCA Wheeling is NOT responsible in cases of plagiarism and/or copyright infringement. If YWCA Wheeling receives any concrete evidence of plagiarism and/or copyright infringement after a winner is selected, then the prize shall be returned and YWCA Wheeling shall remove that work from its website.

**If you have any questions about the 2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest, please contact us at 304-232-0511 or cdcoadvocate@ywcawheeling.org.**

Official use only #14-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest**

**Contact Information Form**

Essays may not include any information that identifies the student, teacher, principal, or school. Any essay that includes identifying information will be automatically disqualified.

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GRADE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PARENT/GUARDIAN\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PRINCIPAL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest Topic**

**QUOTE**

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.

**ESSAY TOPIC GRADES 1 – 4**

Name one right you have. Why is this right important to you?

**ESSAY TOPIC GRADES 5 – 8**

Name one right you have.

Describe one incident in which another person tried to infringe upon your right. How did the incident make you feel? How did you respond? What did you learn from the incident?

Is there a better way in which you could have responded? What advice do you have for someone who might be suffering from a similar infringement?

**ESSAY TOPIC GRADES 9 – 12 & GED**

Name one right you have. What is the difference between a right and a privilege? Why is this a right and not a privilege?

Why is this right important to you? How would your life change if you did not have this right? Why does the Constitution protect some rights and not others?

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**Scoring Sheet for Grades 1 – 4**

**Grammar: 20 points**

Please count the number of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors in the essay. Deduct one point for every error.

NOTE: If an error recurs CONSISTENTLY throughout the essay, then deduct only one point. If an error occurs once or multiple times throughout the essay, but not CONSISTENTLY, then deduct one point for each occurrence.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Errors** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
|  | 20 |  |

**Originality: 20 points**

Please rate this essay on the originality of its ideas, choice of words, and style.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 8 |  |
| Overall, how much capacity for independent thought does this essay demonstrate? | 10 |  |
| TOTAL | 20 |  |

**Relevance to theme: 30 points**

Please rate how well the content of the essay addresses the issues presented in the Topic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 5 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 10 |  |
| Overall, how well does this essay relate an incident from the student’s life to the life and/or legacy of Dr. King? | 15 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

**Effective expression: 30 points**

Please rate how well the ideas in this essay are communicated, the overall organization of the essay, and the essay’s overall presentation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 5 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 10 |  |
| Overall, is the essay written in a compelling manner? | 15 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

Grammar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Originality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance to theme: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Effective expression: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Scoring Sheet for Grades 5 – 8**

**Grammar: 20 points**

Please count the number of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors in the essay. Deduct one point for every error.

NOTE: If an error recurs CONSISTENTLY throughout the essay, then deduct only one point. If an error occurs once or multiple times throughout the essay, but NOT consistently, then deduct one point for each occurrence.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Errors** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
|  | 20 |  |

**Originality: 20 points**

Please rate this essay on the originality of its ideas, choice of words, and style.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| Describe one incident in which another person tried to infringe upon your right. | 2 |  |
| How did the incident make you feel? | 2 |  |
| How did you respond? | 2 |  |
| What did you learn from the incident? | 2 |  |
| Is there a better way in which you could have responded? | 2 |  |
| What advice do you have for someone who might be suffering from a similar infringement? | 2 |  |
| Overall, how much capacity for independent thought does this essay demonstrate? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 20 |  |

**Relevance to theme: 30 points**

Please rate how well the content of the essay addresses the issues presented in the Topic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| Describe one incident in which another person tried to infringe upon your right. | 3 |  |
| How did the incident make you feel? | 4 |  |
| How did you respond? | 3 |  |
| What did you learn from the incident? | 4 |  |
| Is there a better way in which you could have responded? | 4 |  |
| What advice do you have for someone who might be suffering from a similar infringement? | 4 |  |
| Overall, how well does this essay relate an incident from the student’s life to the life and/or legacy of Dr. King? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

**Effective expression: 30 points**

Please rate how well the ideas in this essay are communicated, the overall organization of the essay, and the essay’s overall presentation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| Describe one incident in which another person tried to infringe upon your right. | 3 |  |
| How did the incident make you feel? | 4 |  |
| How did you respond? | 3 |  |
| What did you learn from the incident? | 4 |  |
| Is there a better way in which you could have responded? | 4 |  |
| What advice do you have for someone who might be suffering from a similar infringement? | 4 |  |
| Overall, is the essay written in a compelling manner? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

Grammar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Originality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance to theme: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Effective expression: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Scoring Sheet for Grades 9 – 12 & GED**

**Grammar: 20 points**

Please count the number of grammatical, punctuation, and spelling errors in the essay. Deduct one point for every error.

NOTE: If an error recurs CONSISTENTLY throughout the essay, then deduct only one point. If an error occurs once or multiple times throughout the essay, but NOT consistently, then deduct one point for each occurrence.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Errors** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
|  | 20 |  |

**Originality: 20 points**

Please rate this essay on the originality of its ideas, choice of words, and style.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| What is the difference between a right and a privilege? | 2 |  |
| Why is this a right and not a privilege? | 2 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 2 |  |
| How would your life change if you did not have this right? | 3 |  |
| Why does the Constitution protect some rights and not others? | 3 |  |
| Overall, how much capacity for independent thought does this essay demonstrate? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 20 |  |

**Relevance to theme: 30 points**

Please rate how well the content of the essay addresses the issues presented in the Topic.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| What is the difference between a right and a privilege? | 2 |  |
| Why is this a right and not a privilege? | 3 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 6 |  |
| How would your life change if you did not have this right? | 7 |  |
| Why does the Constitution protect some rights and not others? | 4 |  |
| Overall, how well does this essay relate an incident from the student’s life to the life and/or legacy of Dr. King? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

**Effective expression: 30 points**

Please rate how well the ideas in this essay are communicated, the overall organization of the essay, and the essay’s overall presentation.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Topic** | **Points possible** | **Points received** |
| Name one right you have. | 2 |  |
| What is the difference between a right and a privilege? | 2 |  |
| Why is this a right and not a privilege? | 3 |  |
| Why is this right important to you? | 6 |  |
| How would your life change if you did not have this right? | 7 |  |
| Why does the Constitution protect some rights and not others? | 4 |  |
| Overall, is the essay written in a compelling manner? | 6 |  |
| TOTAL | 30 |  |

Grammar: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Originality: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relevance to theme: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Effective expression: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**2014 Project on Racism Essay Contest**

**Student Checklist**

* Is your Contact Information Form filled out completely and accurately?
* Did you EXCLUDE all identifying information (such as name, school, grade, age, and teacher) from your essay?
* Is your essay two (2) pages or shorter?
* Is your essay either handwritten, typed, or computer-generated?
* Is your essay double-spaced?
* Is your essay on white paper?
* Does your essay answer each and every question in the Topic?
* Did you check for errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation?
* Does your essay contain only your original work?
* Is your entry being submitted between October 1 – November 1?