

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST  
OUR THEME FOR 2021:**

*” Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that  
matter”*



The St. Johns Education Association is pleased to present the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., essay and poster contest. We work with the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration Committee of St. Johns County to celebrate the life and works of this American hero.

Important dates for the essay and poster contest, as well as the awards ceremony, are listed below. Details and rules for the essay and poster contest follow on the next two pages.

Essays and posters due on January 25, 2021 by 6:00 pm to the SJEA office: 1260 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd., Suite F, St. Augustine, 32084. Late essays and posters will not be accepted.

Essay and poster judging will take place January 25 and 26, 2021. SJEA will notify all contest winners.

We will not be hosting our annual awards ceremony due to Covid-19 concerns. We will still award prizes and showcase our winners on the SJEA website.



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Essay Eligibility

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There are three categories for essay entries:

Grades 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12

Essay Criteria

- The essay must be typed or handwritten in ink by the student (exception - students with special accommodations).
- A cover sheet containing the name of the participant, complete home address, school, grade, teacher, and telephone number must accompany the essay. Use word count to include the number of words on your cover sheet.
- The writing should be focused, on topic, have a logical, organized pattern; and have ample development of supporting ideas using a mature command of the language for appropriate grade level. The essay must be the student’s original work. This is not a biography of Dr. Martin Luther King; the writing should reflect the theme.
- Teachers, please send the top three essays from each class to SJEA by Monday, January 25, 2021. You may send the essays the SJEA office (address above). SJEA and the MLK Celebration Committee will choose three finalists from all entries to determine the winners in each grade category.
- Length of Essay  
Students in Grades 4 - 5: 200 - 400 words with bibliography (if applicable)  
Students in Grades 6 - 8: 400 - 600 words with bibliography (if applicable)  
Students in Grades 9 - 12: 600 - 800 words with bibliography (if applicable)

Essay Awards

First, second, and third place winners from each grade category will win  
Barnes and Noble gift cards

Poster Criteria

The following grade levels are eligible to participate in the poster contest:

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Grades K-5; 6-8, and 9-12

- All posters must be about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect this year's theme (see heading)
- All HS/MS poster entries must be original works (original: created directly and personally by an artist; not a copy or imitation)
- All HS /MS entries must submit a poster no larger than 16in x 20in
- Accepted mediums for HS entries include: painting, drawing, printmaking, digital art (using original photos), mixed media (using original materials), and photography.
- All HS/MS entries must be able to submit a digital copy if needed.
- Posters shall be judged at each participating school
- Each participating school will choose four semi-finalists. Semi-finalists' posters must be delivered to the SJEA office by January 25 (address above)
- Each semi-finalist's poster **MUST** include the student's full name, grade, teacher, and school
- Each semi-finalist will receive a certificate at the awards ceremony. SJEA and the MLK Celebration Committee will award overall winners for first, second, and third place.

Poster Awards

First, second, and third place overall winners will win Barnes and Noble gift cards

Questions? Contact Megan Young, SJEA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, at  
Megan.Young@stjohns.k12.fl.us