

**2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest**  
**Sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance of Springfield and Vicinity**

**Purposes**

1. To promote an awareness and understanding of the message that Dr. King expressed through his writings, ministry and work in the Civil Rights Movement.
2. To encourage the development of communication skills in Springfield youth.
3. To provide the youth of the area an opportunity to develop a biblically based vision of life and justice, applying Dr. King's Dream in their lives and our society today.
4. To help the youth remember and honor the legacy and work of Dr. King.
5. To develop a biblically rooted life vision.

**Essay Topic**

*An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

How will you encourage others to rise above their individual concerns to the broader concerns of all people?

**Contest Procedures**

1. Contestants will submit the Contestant Data Sheet and their Essay to the...  
Education Committee of the Ministerial Alliance

c/o Pastor Glen VanderKloot  
2313 Whittier  
Springfield, IL 62704

Or as a Word document attached to an email to [faithsecretary@sbcglobal.net](mailto:faithsecretary@sbcglobal.net)  
No Faxes will be accepted.

2. The deadline for receipt of all essays and data sheets is **noon on Wednesday December 9, 2009. No Exceptions!**

3. The written essays will be judged in each category for **addressing the topic, originality, content, clarity, proper written English and presentation**. At least two finalists will be selected in each category and notified no later than **Saturday December 12, 2009**.

4. The Finalists will deliver their essays on **Monday December 14, 2009 at 7:00 pm at Grace Lutheran Church, 7<sup>th</sup> and Capitol** before a panel of judges. Each finalist will be judged on delivery, content and stage decorum. A winner and a runner up will be selected in each age category by the judges. Contestants are encouraged to bring family, friends and their pastor for their presentations

5. The four winners will deliver their essay during the Springfield Dr. Martin Luther King Memorial Service on **Sunday January 17, 2010**.

6. The runners-up will also be acknowledged and should be prepared to deliver their essay in the event that the winner is unable to appear.

7. This contest is open to all students enrolled currently in a public, parochial, private school or in the NAACP Alternative Education Program in the Springfield Area. Any student with college work is ineligible to participate. Students who were winners in any category in 2008 are ineligible to compete in 2009. A student may only win once in any single category.

8. Each contestant must prepare his or her own essay on the designated topic. **This is not a biography of Dr. King's life**. Essays should be typewritten in **Times New Romans, size 14 font, double spaced** and within the designated length:

Elementary School Grades 1-5 300 to 500 words

Middle School Grades 6-8 400 to 700 words

High School Grades 9-12 600 to 1000 words

Alternative Education Program 500 to 1000 words

No essay may exceed the maximum word limit!

9. Every student entering gives permission for their essay to be printed and their picture taken and disseminated.

#### **Awards**

\$100 to each winner \$ 50 to each runner up

**For Questions Contact:** Pastor Glen VanderKloot 522-7331 or  
pastor@faithlutheran.com

# **The 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

## **Essay Contest**

### **Data Sheet**

*please print legibly*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

**School** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_