

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ESSAY AND POSTER CONTEST
OUR THEME FOR 2023-2024:**

"America: Be True to What You Said on Paper." MLK JR

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 are due on **January 19th, 2024, by 5:00 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 on January 19th and 20th, 2024. SJEA will notify all contest winners through their submitting teacher.



We will be hosting our annual awards ceremony in the St. Augustine High School auditorium in February 2024.

Essay Eligibility

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 the topic, have a logical, organized pattern, and have ample development of supporting ideas using a mature command of the language for the appropriate grade level. The essay must be the student's original work. This is not a biography of Dr. Martin Luther King; the writing MUST reflect the theme or will be dismissed from judging.
- Teachers, please send the top three essays from each class to SJEA by Monday, January 21, 2022. You may send the essays to 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.

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Poster Criteria

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

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

**All posters must be about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and reflect this year’s theme.
Failure to reflect this year’s designated theme will result in removal from judging.**

- 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/MS 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.
- Elementary posters must not exceed 16in x 20in. Acceptable mediums for elementary entries include painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and photography (using original photos). **Please do not attach lights or other 3-D paraphernalia.**
- Posters shall be judged at each participating school. Each participating school will choose **four** semi-finalists (academies may choose four semi-finalists each from elementary and middle levels). Semi-finalists’ posters must be delivered to the SJEA office by January 19th (address above). **Please do not send extra entries.**
- Each semi-finalist’s poster **MUST** include the student’s full name, grade, teacher, and school on the back.
- 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 Marty Westall, SJEA 2nd Vice President, at
martin.westall@stjohns.k12.fl.us**