

## ALL SECONDARY PRINCIPALS/APs/TEACHERS: Black History Essay Contest for Secondary Schools

**Category: For Your Information****Audience:** Principals/APs (Middle), Principals/APs (Senior High), All Teachers

Due Date: n/a

Meeting Date: n/a

The Department of Social Sciences and the United Teachers of Dade are sponsoring the annual Black History Essay Contest for secondary students.

- The purpose of this contest is to enhance secondary school students' writing skills while promoting an awareness of the 2015 Black History theme, "A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture."
- 2015 Black History information to assist in responding to the prompt:  
Lately, several communities in South Florida and in the world have experienced a rash of senseless violence. In the past, African Americans as well as other minority activists transformed race relations, challenged American domestic and foreign policy, and became the American conscience on human rights.  
For example, in early 1965, Martin Luther King Jr. and SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) decided to make Selma, located in Dallas County, Alabama, the focus of a voter registration campaign, thus shedding light on social injustice, violence in communities, and discrimination against minorities. Alabama Governor George Wallace was a notorious opponent of desegregation, and the local county sheriff in Dallas County had led a steadfast opposition to black voter registration drives. As a result, only 2 percent of Selma's eligible black voters (300 out of 15,000) had managed to register.
- **2015 Black History prompt:**  
As an activist that recognizes the power of voting, write to convince your reader why it is important to vote and how this power can be used to address community concerns (e.g. increase in youth violence). Cite specific evidence; include explicit details and logical inferences to support your conclusion.
- **PRIZES:**  
Separate first, second and third place prizes will be awarded in the middle school and senior high school categories as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$200 U.S Currency
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$100 U.S. Currency
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$50 U.S. Currency
- **BLACK HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES**
- Essays must be typed, with a maximum length of 500 words (2 pages), double spaced on white paper, and stapled on the upper left hand corner. The prompt must be typed on the cover sheet. The cover sheet must also include the student's name, grade level, email address, phone number (cell/home), and school. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in disqualification.
- All entries will be evaluated in their entirety with consideration being given to the following four elements: focus, organization, support and conventions.
- All entries are due by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, February 13, 2015.**
- Winners will be announced via email on or before Friday, **February 20, 2015.**
- The secondary categories are grades 6-8 and 9-12.
- **MAIL OR HAND DELIVER TO:**  
Dr. Sherrilyn Scott, Supervisor,  
Department of Social Sciences  
School Board Administration Building Annex, Room 326C  
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If there are further questions, contact Dr. Sherrilyn Scott via email at [sherrilynscott@dadeschools.net](mailto:sherrilynscott@dadeschools.net).

**Contact:** Dr. Sherrilyn Scott ( 305-995-1971 )**Department:** Department of Social Sciences