

## ALL SECONDARY PRINCIPALS/AP'S: Black History Essay Contest for Secondary Schools

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

Due Date: Jan 25, 2011

Meeting Date: n/a

The Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills 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 2011 Black History theme, "African Americans and the Civil War."
- **All entries are due by 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.**
- **Winners will be announced on Friday, January 28, 2011.**
- All participants are highly encouraged to attend the **2011 Black History Awards Reception and Award Ceremony scheduled for Thursday February 3, 2011 at the University of Phoenix (see details below).**
- **First, second, and third place winners for grades 6-8 and 9-12 will be recognized at the Districts 2011 MDCPS' District Annual Black History Program, scheduled for Friday, February 4, 2011 in the Miami Dade County SBAB auditorium (see details below).**
- **The secondary categories are grades 6-8 and 9-12.**
- **2011 Black History prompt:**  
In 1861, Frederick Douglas, a most prominent black leader, wrote that regardless of intentions, the Civil War would bring an end to slavery, America's "peculiar institution." Four million people of African descent, free and enslaved blacks, rallied around the Union flag in the cause of freedom. Consider the complicated situation Frederick Douglass was in as a leader of enslaved people. Yet, despite the many obstacles and concerns that free and enslaved African Americans were facing in 1861, Frederick Douglass saw the "big picture" and envisioned freedom for his people. This vision provided him with the ability to convince four million enslaved people to rally together in the cause of freedom. Now, imagine you are a leader much like Frederick Douglass and while using examples from the Civil War, write to convince your reader to rally together for a worthy cause.
- **PRIZES:**
  - Separate first, second, and third place prizes will be awarded in the middle and senior high school categories as follows:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - \$400 U.S. Savings Bond
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$250 U.S. Savings Bond
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$100 U.S. Savings Bond

**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, 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.
- **SUBMIT TO:**
  - Dr. Sherrilyn Scott, Supervisor, Division of Social Sciences and Life Skills, School Board Administration Building Annex, Room 326C, Mail Code #9626
- **All entries are due on or before Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.**
- Faxed entries will not be accepted.

**AWARD CEREMONY/RECEPTION:**

- **All students will receive certificates for participation. Certificates will be distributed at the reception/award ceremony.**
- Parents and students are highly encouraged to attend.

- **The reception and award ceremony will be held on Thursday, February 3, 2011.**
- **The reception and award ceremony time is scheduled for 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**
- **The location for the reception, award ceremony is:**

University of Phoenix  
Miami Learning Center  
11410 NW 20th Street  
Miami, FL, 33172-1111  
Phone: 305.428.4910

**M-DCPS' DISTRICT ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM:**

- **First, second, and third place winners are asked to attend the District's annual Black History program.**
- The District's Annual Black History program is scheduled for **Friday, February 4, 2011 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.**
- **The SBAB auditorium address is 1450 NE Second Avenue, Miami, FL 33132.**

If there are further questions, contact Dr. Sherrilyn Scott at the number listed below or via email at [sherrilynscoott@dadeschools.net](mailto:sherrilynscoott@dadeschools.net).

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