The writing contest is open to students in grades K-12 who live in the city of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa or West Bend or are enrolled in a school, either public or private, within the city of Milwaukee, Wauwatosa or West Bend.

There are seven grade-level categories:

- Grades 1-2, group project only (no essays), reflecting children’s work and ideas.
- Grades 2-3, individual entries (maximum length 250 words)
- Grades 4-5 individual entries (maximum length 350 words)
- Grade 6 individual entries (maximum length 400 words)
- Grades 7-8 individual entries (maximum length 450 words)
- Grades 9-10 individual entries (maximum length 500 words)
- Grades 11-12 individual entries (maximum length 550 words)

Writing must be neat and legible. Only one side of the page can be used. Entries must stay within the word limitation. Please be aware, many excellent essays had to be disqualified last year because they exceeded word limitations.

**JUDGING**

The entries will be judged on a point system, with the following criteria considered:

1. Entries must address Dr. King’s legacy.
2. Entries should relate to the student’s personal ideas or experiences regarding his legacy and show an understanding of Dr. King’s ideals.
3. Entries must not be a biographical sketch of Dr. King.
4. Entries will be judged on the basis of clearly expressed, creative ideas. In judging entries, emphasis will be placed on clarity, creativity and originality. However, the correct usage of basic grammar and writing skills also will be considered.

**DEADLINE**

Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, at 5 p.m.

**PRIZES/RECOGNITION**

Awards will be given at Milwaukee’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020. First-, second- and third-place contest winners will receive an engraved plaque from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and prizes valued at $50-$100.

**AVAILABLE RESOURCES**

In order for students to write quality entries, they need to become familiar with Dr. King’s life and values. We strongly encourage both students and teachers to use the resources of the Milwaukee Public Libraries.

**ATTENTION TEACHERS:**

For each classroom packet of entries, which a cover sheet (8.5” x 11”) indicating the school, the teacher’s name, grade level and a list of the students entering the contest. The original essay should be submitted. Entries will not be returned. Teachers may make copies for their students prior to submission.

**IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE**

To facilitate anonymity in judging, the following information must be clearly printed or typed on the back of each entry:

1. Student’s full name (include middle initial)
2. Student’s grade level
3. Student’s phone number
4. Student’s address (including ZIP code)
5. School’s name
6. Teacher’s name

**ENTRY DELIVERY INFORMATION**

All entries must be received by 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18 at one of the following sites:

- The children’s librarian at any Milwaukee Public Library
- The Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association at 5130 W. Vliet St.
- Entries submitted after 5 p.m. Nov. 18 will not be considered for prizes.

**NOTE:** Do not send your entry to Milwaukee Public Schools Central Services Office.