

14TH ANNUAL
MLK CELEBRATION
Sacramento Capital Region

ESSAY CONTEST



**SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY AND GET
A CHANCE TO WIN UP TO \$500!**

Showcase your ideas. Inspire change. Make a difference. Submit your essay by Friday, December 18, 2026, and you could be selected as one of this year's winners to receive cash prizes.



2027 MLK ESSAY QUESTION

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and generations of civil rights leaders worked to create a more just and equal world. Today, young people have the opportunity to carry that work forward in their own ways.

What is one issue affecting your school, community, country, or world that matters to you? How can you use hope, education, and action to help make a difference?

Remember: You don't have to already be an activist to have something worth saying. Start with what you care about, imagine what could be better, and consider what role you could play.

YOUR
VOICE.
YOUR
FUTURE.
YOUR
LEGACY.



WHO CAN ENTER?

Open to Middle and High School students in El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo County.



THE DETAILS

Essays must be the student's original work, written in the student's own voice, and limited to 500 words. AI-generated content or AI assistance in writing or rewriting the essay is not allowed. See the official contest rules for complete requirements.



CASH PRIZES

HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

1ST PLACE **\$500** | 2ND PLACE **\$300** | 3RD PLACE **\$200**

MIDDLE SCHOOL DIVISION

1ST PLACE **\$250** | 2ND PLACE **\$150** | 3RD PLACE **\$100**



SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, DEC. 18, 2026 • 5 P.M.
NO LATE ESSAYS WILL BE ACCEPTED

FOR OFFICIAL RULES AND TO SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY:

mlkcelebrationsacramento.org/essay

