



2023 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Literary & Visual Arts Contest

Celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke up for people who were being treated unfairly. Dr. King explained that it is our responsibility to do something when we see someone being treated unfairly because of their race, skin color or other identity, even if those people are not like us. He believed we should care about fairness for everyone. In his renowned essay "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Dr. King said: **"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere...Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."** If we don't speak up for all people who are treated unfairly, it has a negative effect on us all.

PROMPT:

Describe in writing or visual art a time when you saw someone treated unfairly because of what they looked like or who they were; OR an event in history where people were treated unfairly because of what they looked like or who they were.

ELIGIBILITY:

- You must be a resident of Arlington County or enrolled in APS.
- You must be in grade Kindergarten through 12.

CATEGORIES & RULES:

Writing

- Elementary (K-5) entries must be a minimum of 25 words but not more than 150 words.
- Middle School (6-8) entries must be a minimum of 150 words but not more than 250 words.
- High School (9-12) entries must be a minimum of 250 words but not more than 350 words
- All entries must be typed or printed on an 8 ½ x 11" white piece of paper.
- Do not put your name on the essay paper.

Poetry

- Poems must be your original unpublished work.
- All entries must be typed or printed on an 8 ½ x 11" white piece of paper.
- Do not put your name on the poem paper.

Artwork

- Artwork can be produced in any medium, 2D or 3D.
- Do not put your name on the artwork itself. Instead, attach this form (next page) to your artwork and mail or deliver it to the locations on the back of this form.



Artwork: Munachimso Nnkemakolam, Wakefield High School

**All entries are due by 5 p.m.
Friday, November 18, 2022**

(See back for submission procedures)

AWARDS:

- 2 awards will be given in each group:
 - Grades K, 1 and 2
 - Grades 3, 4, 5
 - Grades 6, 7, 8
 - Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
- Each group will have two first place winners and two runners up in each category: Literary Arts Achievement (Writing or Poetry) and Visual Arts Achievement
- Winners will be announced on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

SUBMISSIONS

- Email your entry to mlkentries@apsva.us; include the form information below, and the essay or poem as an attachment.

OR

- Drop off your entry with this form attached at an APS school in the front office, or at the Syphax building 1st floor Welcome Center, 2110 Washington Blvd.

ENTRY FORM INFORMATION:

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address: _____

Arlington, VA ZIP Code _____

Age _____ Grade _____ Student ID# _____

School _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number _____

Please select your submission type below:

Literary Arts: Writing Literary Arts: Poetry Visual Arts

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022.

Postmarks will not be considered and late entries will not be accepted.

For more information:
Please contact Dawn Smith at
703-228-2581 or at mlkentries@apsva.us
Download entry forms from apsva.us/mlkentryform
Winners will be recognized in a video tribute at the School
Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023.

