

2015-2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an activist committed to peace, justice and equality. In his efforts for civil rights, he emphasized the importance of determination to achieve freedom and human dignity. His driving forces were love, the importance of family and self-respect.

This year's theme is *"We Must Act Now."* The writers can relate this theme to themselves or others in their families, schools, neighborhoods or world.



This year's theme – "We Must Act Now."

ELIGIBILITY/CATEGORIES

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

There are seven grade-level categories:

- K-1, 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 the theme.
2. Entries should relate to the student's personal ideas or experiences regarding the topic 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. 16, 2015, at 5 p.m.

PRIZES/RECOGNITION

Awards will be given at Milwaukee's Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2016. First-, second- and third-place writing 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, attach 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. 16, 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. 16 will not be considered for prizes.

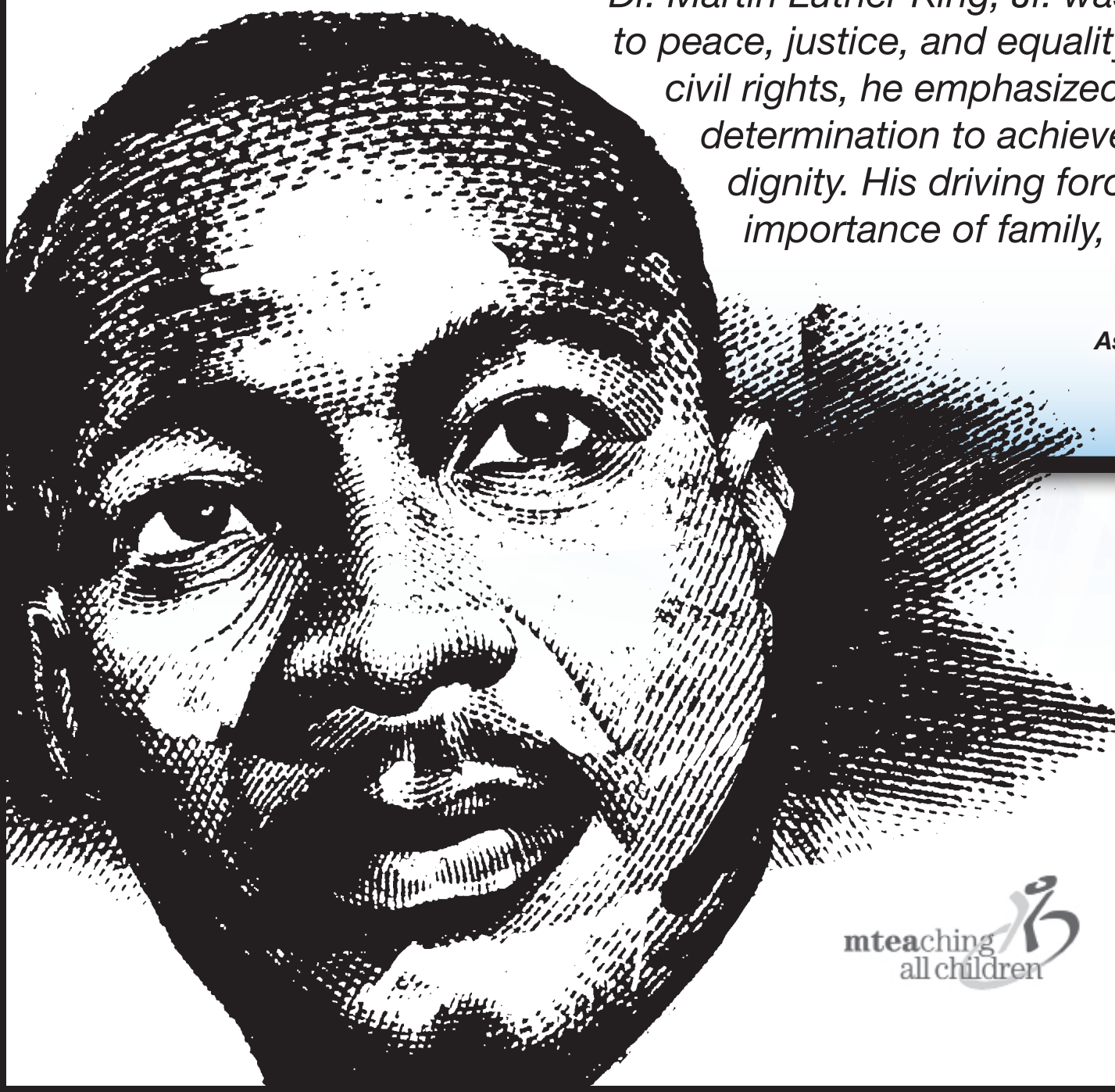
NOTE: Do not send your entry to Milwaukee Public Schools Central Services Office.

"We Must Act Now."

– Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association is honored to sponsor the 2015-2016 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Writing Contest.



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