

First Annual Black History Month Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Learning Resources Centers



The Contest

Any currently-enrolled Piedmont Community College student may enter this essay contest by writing an essay that explains the significance of one of the selected quotations below—What the quote means to you as an individual in today's world.

"Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us."

~Wilma Rudolph, Olympic athlete

"Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

~Malcolm X, Black Nationalist and Muslim leader

"I'll wrangle me up a future or die trying."

~Zora Neale Hurston, writer and folklorist

"Strive to make something of yourself; then strive to make the most of yourself."

~Alexander Crummell, minister and scholar

"Everyone is represented in Washington by a rich and powerful lobby, it seems. But there is no lobby for the people."

~Shirley Chisholm, politician

"How can you teach book learning to people who are hungry and without proper shelter and know nothing about good living?"

~Booker T. Washington, educator

The Guidelines

1. All entrants must be a currently-enrolled Piedmont Community College student.
2. Only one entry may be submitted per student.
3. Each entry must be at least 500 words, typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman or Calibri font.
4. The entry must include the following information in the top left corner of each page: student's name, curriculum or program, student's e-mail address, and Person or Caswell County Campus.

5. Essay must be solely the work of the entrant, based on ONE of the selected quotations, and reflect the contest theme.

6. All essay entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

- ⇒ Strong introduction and connection to the selected quotation
- ⇒ Clarity
- ⇒ Creativity
- ⇒ Flow of writing
- ⇒ Free of grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors
- ⇒ Strong conclusion

Judging

A panel of four faculty and staff from the Person and Caswell County Campuses will choose the winners.

Essays will be judged on style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate, and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophical meaning of the selected quotation. The names of the entrants will be covered; judges will not see the entrants' names.

Prizes

Two prizes will be awarded, one from each campus. The prize for each winner is a \$25 gift card. In addition, winners will read their essays at the LRC Poetry Slam in April, and they will be interviewed for the LRConnections Spring 2012 newsletter.

Submission and Deadline

Essays may be submitted between January 9, 2012 and February 10, 2012. Essays submitted after February 10, 2012 will be returned to the entrants.

Submit essays to Vanessa Bass, Reference Librarian, Person County Campus at bassv@piedmontcc.edu; or to Lionell Parker, Coordinator, Library Services, Caswell County Campus at parkerl@piedmontcc.edu, as an attachment with the subject line "First Annual Black History Essay Contest."

Winners will be notified via student e-mail by Monday, February 20, 2012.