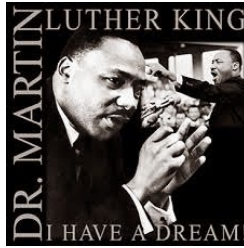


Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc. 2026 Student Art Competition



Living the Dream, Inc. is sponsoring its **24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Art Competition** for Topeka area students in grades first through twelve.

Awards and Recognition

Certificates and gift card awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in each grade category during a King Holiday Student Awards and Recognition Program on **Monday, January 19, 2026 at 10:30 am at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, 1515 SE Monroe Street.** The winning artwork will be displayed during the program.

Art Entry Grade Categories

The artwork will be judged in the following grade competition categories:

■1st-2nd Grade ■3rd-4th Grade ■5th-6th Grade ■7th-8th Grade ■9th-10th Grade ■11th-12th Grade

Art Submissions

Any two-dimensional (flat) art, digital or mixed media art may be submitted including, but not limited to:

- Paintings or Drawings (charcoal, pastels, or pencil)
- Photography/Mixed Media
- Fabric Art or Sculptures

Art entries submitted should not exceed 24 inches by 36 inches in height. Artwork should be covered with a smear-proof covering.

Art Themes

The student artwork should represent an artistic interpretation of diversity, peace, unity, justice, human rights or non-violence as reflected in quotes or principles from civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma K. Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, César E. Chavez, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa or another great civil rights leader. Students may also submit artwork that promotes the **2026 Living the Dream Theme: “Keep Moving Forward!”**

Where Do I Drop-off Art Submissions?

Submissions from art teachers, parents or students should be dropped off at the front desk at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, 1515 SE Monroe Street.

When is the Deadline Date?

All art entries must be submitted no later than **4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025.** The art winners will be notified by email the week of December 28, 2025.

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc.
2026 Student Art Competition Entry Form**

School Name _____ **Art Teacher's Name** _____
(Please print or type)

School Address _____ **Art Teacher's Email** _____

Grade Categories (Please check your grade category below.)

☐ 1st - 2nd ☐ 3rd - 4th ☐ 5th - 6th ☐ 7th - 8th ☐ 9th - 10th ☐ 11th - 12th

Student's Name _____ **Student's Age** _____ **Grade** _____

Title of Artwork _____ **Student's Email** _____

Type of Art _____ Painting _____ Drawing _____ Photography/Mixed Media _____ Fabric _____ Sculpture

Check Theme _____ Diversity _____ Peace _____ Unity _____ Human Rights _____ Justice _____ Non-Violence

Describe how your artwork relates to one of the above themes or the 2026 LTD Theme:

I understand that my child's artwork will be entered and judged in the **Living the Dream, Inc. 2026 Student Art Competition**. I further consent to any subsequent printing and display of this artwork deemed appropriate by Living the Dream, Inc. I understand my student's artwork is submitted for the sole purpose of this Competition and will not be sold or otherwise used for any commercial purpose, unless I grant permission as the parent or guardian of the above named student. I understand the artwork will only be considered if submitted by **4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025**. I further understand that my child has no entitlements or guarantees of awards or recognition as a result of this entry, unless he or she is selected as one of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners by the Art Competition judges.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian _____ **Date** _____

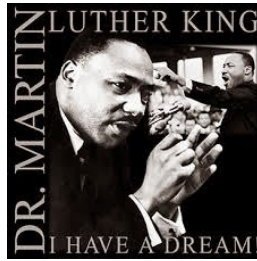
Parent's Phone Number _____ **Parent's Email** _____

Print Name of Student _____

Signature of Student _____ **Date** _____

Please submit your artwork and the signed Art entry form by 4:30 pm on December 5, 2025 to the front desk at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park. If you should have questions about the Art Competition, please contact Cindy White at: clwhite4KU@cox.net or at (785) 249-3396.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc. 2026 Student Essay Competition



Living the Dream, Inc. is sponsoring its **24th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Essay Competition** for Topeka area students in grades first through twelve.

Awards and Recognition

Certificates and gift card awards will be presented to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in each grade category during a King Holiday Student Awards and Recognition Program on **Monday, January 19, 2026 at 10:30 am at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, 1515 SE Monroe Street.**

Essay Grade Categories

The essays will be judged in the following grade competition categories:

▪ 1st -2nd Grade ▪ 3-4th Grade ▪ 5-6th Grade ▪ 7-8th Grade ▪ 9-10th Grade ▪ 11-12th Grade

Essay Guidelines

- **Grades 1st - 6th - TYPED (100 words or more)**
- **Grades 7th - 12th - TYPED (500 words or more)**
- All entries submitted should be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in a neat format. The student's name should only appear on the Essay Competition entry form.
- Failure to comply with the entry rules will result in the essay not being eligible for judging or awards.
- **Graduating high school seniors must submit a separate essay for the Living the Dream, Inc. College Scholarship Application. The Student Essay Competition essay does not serve in the place of the College Scholarship Application essay submission.**

Essay Themes

The essay should represent the writer's interpretation of diversity, peace, unity, justice, human rights, or non-violence as reflected in quotes or principles from civil rights leaders such as **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma K. Gandhi, César E. Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa or another great civil rights leader.** Students may also submit an essay that promotes the **2026 Living the Dream Theme: "Keep Moving Forward!"**

Where Do I Email My Essay?

All essays and completed entry forms should be emailed to: **Betty Young, Chairperson, Living the Dream Essay Competition at: byoung@tps501.org.** If you should have questions about the Essay Competition, please contact Ms. Young at (785) 295-3240.

When is the Essay Competition Deadline?

All entries must be submitted no later than **4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025.** All winners will be notified by email during the week of January 4, 2026.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc.
2026 Student Essay Competition Entry Form

School Name _____ Teacher _____
(Please print or type)

Teacher's Email Address _____

Grade Category (Please check your grade category below.)

☐ 1st-2nd Grade ☐ 3rd-4th Grade ☐ 5th-6th Grade ☐ 7th-8th Grade ☐ 9th-10th Grade ☐ 11th-12th Grade

Student's Name _____ Student's Age _____ Grade _____

Student's Address _____

Student's Phone Number _____ Student's Email Address _____

Title of Essay _____

I understand that my child's essay will be entered and judged in the **Living the Dream, Inc. 2026 Student Essay Competition**. I further understand and consent to any subsequent printing and display of the essay as deemed appropriate by Living the Dream, Inc. I understand my child's essay is submitted for the sole purpose of the Essay Competition and will not be sold or otherwise used for any commercial purpose unless permission is given by me, as parent or guardian of the above named student. I understand this essay will only be considered if **submitted by 4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025**. I consent to the use of this submission to be judged in the Essay Competition. I fully understand that my child has no entitlements or guarantees of awards or recognition as a result of this entry, unless he or she is selected as one of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners by the designated judges for this Competition.

Parent/Legal Guardian (Print Name) _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address _____

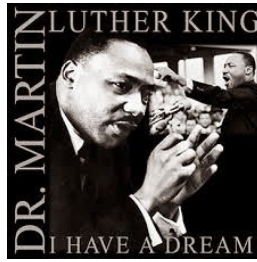
Parent/Legal Guardian Phone Number _____

Student's Name (Print Name) _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

All essays and the signed Essay entry form must be emailed by 4:30 pm on December 5, 2025 to: Betty Young, Chairperson, Living the Dream Essay Competition at byoung@tps501.org. If you should have questions regarding the Essay Competition, please email or contact Ms. Young at (785) 295-3240.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc. 2026 Student Poetry Competition



Living the Dream, Inc. is sponsoring its **19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Poetry Competition** for Topeka area students in grades fifth through twelve.

Awards and Recognition

Certificates and gift card awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner in each grade category during a King Holiday Student Awards and Recognition Program on **Monday, January 19, 2026 at 10:30 am at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park, 1515 SE Monroe Street.**

Who May Enter?

All poetry entries will be judged in the following grade categories:

▪5th-6th grade

▪7th-8th grade

▪9th-10th grade

▪11th-12th grade

Poetry Competition Guidelines

All poems must be submitted in an electronic format. Poems should be typed and the original work of the student. Students will be required to **memorize and recite** their poem during the Poetry Competition held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 6:00 pm** at the **Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Marvin Auditorium, 1515 SW 10th Avenue.** Each judge's scoring will be based on the student's recitation, structure, originality, and creativity of the poem. Offensive and profane language is prohibited. Because of their unique nature, Haiku and Acrostic poems will not be judged.

Poetry Themes

Poems submitted should represent the student's interpretation of diversity, peace, unity, human rights, justice, or nonviolence as reflected in quotes or principles from civil rights leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma K. Gandhi, César E. Chavez, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Mother Teresa, or another great civil rights leader. Students may also submit a poem that promotes the **2026 Living the Dream Theme: "Keep Moving Forward!"**

Where Do I Send My Poetry Entry?

All student poems and the signed entry forms should be emailed to: Mrs. Cindy White, Chairperson, Living the Dream Poetry Competition at: clwhite4ku@cox.net. If you should have questions regarding the Poetry Competition, please contact Mrs. White at (785) 249-3396.

When is the Deadline Date?

All poems and signed entry forms must be emailed by **4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025.** The winners will be announced at the January 13, 2026 Poetry Competition.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – Living the Dream, Inc.
2026 Student Poetry Competition Entry Form

School Name _____ School Address _____

Teacher's Name _____
(Please print or type)

Principal's Name _____

Grade Level: (Please check your grade category below.)

____ 5th - 6th Grade ____ 7th - 8th Grade ____ 9th - 10th Grade ____ 11th - 12th Grade

Student's Name _____ Student's Age _____ Grade _____

Student's Address _____ Zip Code _____

Student's Phone Number _____ Student's Email Address _____

Title of Poem _____

I understand that my child's poem will be entered and judged in the **Living the Dream, Inc. Student Poetry Competition**. I further understand and consent to any subsequent printing and display of the poem as deemed appropriate by Living the Dream, Inc. I understand this poem is submitted for the sole purpose of the Poetry Competition and will not be sold or otherwise used for any commercial purpose unless permission is given by me, as parent and guardian of the above named child. I understand that this poem will only be considered if the entry form is signed, postmarked and submitted by **4:30 pm on December 5, 2025**. I consent to the use of this submission to be judged in the Poetry Competition. I fully understand that my child has no entitlements or guarantees of prizes or recognition as a result of this entry, unless he or she is selected as one of the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winners by the designated judges for the Poetry Competition.

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Email Address _____ Parent's Phone Number _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Poetry submissions and the signed entry form should be emailed to: Mrs. Cindy White, Chairperson, Living the Dream Poetry Competition at: clwhite4ku@cox.net no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, December 5, 2025. Please contact Mrs. White at (785) 249-3396, if you should have questions.