

Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC
PRESENT

The Ty Howard Year 2012

Middle & High School
Black History Essay Writing Contest

Contest Official Post Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

THE CONTEST

Students from the 6th, 7th and 8th grades (Middle School Level), and 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades (High School Level) who attend public or private school within the United States of America, can enter this essay contest by writing an essay that starts from and explains the significance of what their selected quotation (listed below) communicates / means to them.

Select ONE of the following seven quotations below to start and write your essay:

- 1) **"I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history."** ~ Morgan Freeman
- 2) **"I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky; my name, not yours; my religion, not yours; my goals, my own; get used to me."** ~ Muhammad Ali
- 3) **"I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear."** ~ Rosa Parks
- 4) **"Life is short, and it's up to you to make it sweet."** ~ Sadie Delany
- 5) **"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read."** ~ Mary McLeod Bethune
- 6) **"No matter what accomplishments you make, somebody helped you."** ~ Althea Gibson
- 7) **"The past is a ghost, the future a dream. All we ever have is now."** ~ Bill Cosby

GUIDELINES

1. All writers must be students in 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade.
2. All entries become the property of InspiraGen Institute, LLC and entries will not be returned.
3. One entry per student.

4. Each entry must be between 1000-2500 words (2-5 pages), typed or print handwritten (preferably typed), double-spaced and submitted on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. No cursive writing will be accepted.
5. Essay must be solely the work of the entrant. Plagiarism will result in disqualification.
6. Essay must be solely based on the ONE selected quotation, not a combination of two or more.
7. Attached to each entry must be a completed contest entry form including the student's name, student's grade, teacher, guidance counselor, school name, school's address, student's address and a parent/guardian name, email address and telephone number.
8. Qualifying entries must reflect the contest theme.
9. A completed parental waiver form must accompany each essay. The Parental Waiver Form and Contest Entry Form can be obtained by clicking on the **red** pdf file link below.

- **Download Student Essay Rules, Contest Entry Form and Parental Waiver (.pdf)**

10. ALL essay entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

- Theme Identified
- Strong Introduction and Connection to Selected Quotation
- A Little History on the Author of the Selected Quotation
- Personal Life Experience(s) Tied-In
- Evidence for Persuasion
- Clarity
- Accuracy of Their Observations and Support Resources
- Strong Conclusion
- Creativity of Assignment
- Flow of Writing
- Grammar Usage
- Free of any Grammatical, Spelling, or Punctuation Errors

11. Decisions of the judges are final.

***** While editorial suggestions from teachers, parents and other supportive adults are encouraged, the essay must reflect the student's own thoughts and work. All essays become the property of the contest committee and will not be returned.**

THEME

Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC – Year 2012 Black History Essay Writing Contest
6400 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 134, Baltimore, Maryland 21228
Phone: (443) 982-7582 / Toll Free: 1-800-385-3177 Ext. 0
Website: www.dynamicyouthspeaker.com/blackhistory_writing_contest.htm

The Entrants Selected Quotation from the List Above

JUDGING

A panel of professionals will choose the winners.

Essays will be judged on both style and content. Judges will look for writing that is clear, articulate and logically organized. Winning essays must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of the selected quotation.

Essay submissions are evaluated in a fair and unbiased multi-round judging process. To ensure the anonymity of our participants, cover sheets and identifying information are removed after the first round. Winners' names remain unknown to judges until after the essays have been ranked and the contest results finalized. InspiraGen Institute, LLC checks essays with iThenticate Plagiarism Detection Software.

PRIZES

Each school level (Middle School and High School) will be awarded the following prizes:

One (1) Grand Prize Winner receiving \$200

One (1) 2nd Place Winners receiving \$100

Three (3) 3rd Place Winners receiving \$50

***** Monetary Prizes will be Paid By: Friday, March 23, 2012**

THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER'S BONUS PRIZE

The Grand Prize Winners School's on both the middle school and high school level will receive a donated (complimentary, non-fee) Ty Howard Motivational Full-School Assembly Program delivered to their students. Each school will have from April 16, 2012 to November 16, 2012 to bring Mr. Ty Howard in to deliver his trademarked and award-winning "You Were Born to Be G.R.R.R.R.E.A.T.!!!!TM" presentation.

If the Grand Prize Contest Winner's school is located outside of a 100 mile driving radius, the Grand Prize Contest Winner's School will be required to pre- arrange and pay Mr. Ty Howard's travel and hotel stay expenses only.

CONTEST WINNERS

ALL Contest Winners will be recognized through their school's guidance counselor or teacher point of contact on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

CONTEST SCHEDULE

Official Contest Post Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2011

All entries must be mailed and postmarked by Thursday, January 19, 2012.

Mail ALL Essay Entries to:

Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC
Attn: Ty's Black History Essay Contest
6400 Baltimore National Pike, Suite 134
Baltimore, Maryland 21228

*** While editorial suggestions from teachers, parents and other supportive adults are encouraged, the essay must reflect the student's own thoughts and work. All essays become the property of the contest committee and will not be returned.

- All dates are subject to change at the discretion of Ty Howard and InspiraGen Institute, LLC.

Contact InspiraGen Institute, LLC's Office at (443) 982-7582 with any questions.

ESSAY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC
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The Ty Howard Year 2012

Middle & High School
Black History Essay Writing Contest

(Please Print Neatly)

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Age: _____ Student's 10-Digit Home Phone Number: _____

Student Parent's Email Address (if available): _____

Quotation Selected by Student for Essay: _____

Name of School Currently Attending: _____

School's Address: _____

School's City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

School's Phone: _____ School's Fax Number: _____

School's Head Principal's Name: _____

Student's Guidance Counselor's Name: _____

Student's Teacher Point of Contact at School: _____

Teacher's Email Address (preferably at the school): _____

School's Acknowledgement Statement:

As school's teacher point of contact, I acknowledge that this student is a student in good standing at this school, created the submitted work, and has followed all guidelines and rules stated on pages 1 through 4 of the Student Essay Rules Packet. Should he or she win the Ty Howard Year 2012 Black History Essay Writing Contest, you may contact me directly to let us know. I also understand that if it is discovered that this student's submitted work is not original, the essay entry will be subject to immediate disqualification without an explanation from the Contest Judging Committee.

Teacher's Signature, Printed Name and Contact Telephone Number:

Teacher's Point of Contact Signature

Teacher's Point of Contact Name (Printed)

Teacher's Point of Contact Telephone Number

PARENTAL WAIVER FORM

Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC
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(Please Print Neatly)

Student's Name: _____ Grade Level: _____

Name of School Currently Attending: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

Home Telephone Number: _____ Work Telephone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

I, _____, (Printed Name of Parent), hereby certify the following:

- 1) I am the parent of _____ (printed name of student, hereafter referred to as "my child").
- 2) My child is currently a (check one) ____ middle school student / ____ high school student, and is currently a legal resident living in the State of _____.
- 3) I give permission for my child to enter his/her essay in the Ty Howard Year 2012 Black History Essay Writing the Contest.
- 4) I understand that all rights to the submitted work (essay), including copyright, will be owned by InspiraGen Institute, LLC and not by me or my child. This transfer of rights will allow InspiraGen Institute, LLC, at a minimum, to reproduce, distribute, and display the work (essay) as appropriate.
- 5) I give Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC permission to use my child's name, biographical information, and his/her work (essay) for announcement and promotional purposes in print, radio, television and Internet, without compensation or prior notice.
- 6) I agree to release and hold harmless Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC and its employees, officers, contest judges, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind resulting from my child's participation in this contest, including infringement of intellectual property rights. Ty Howard & InspiraGen Institute, LLC and its employees, officers, contest judges, affiliates, agents, and advertising and promotional agencies assume no responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of actions, or losses of any kind arising in whole or in part from this contest.
- 7) I agree to and completely understand that should my child be declared one of the winners of the Ty Howard Year 2012 Black History Essay Writing Contest, I will be required to complete an IRS W-9 Form (for contest accounting purposes) and an Acknowledgement Letter (both will be given to me by InspiraGen Institute, LLC), in order for my child to receive his/her contest winner financial award.
- 8) I have read the official rules (guidelines) of this contest, and I further certify my child has followed these rules and is eligible and has my full permission to participate in this essay contest.

Parent's Signature

Date

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