

ABENY, INC.  
ASSOCIATION OF BLACK EDUCATORS OF NEW YORK  
Nora Barnes, President

The Association of Black Educators of New York  
Black History Essay Contest 2017

**Topic: “The Civil Rights Movement and Its Impact on American Life”**

It is so important to have conversations and to read about the civil rights movement in America. Consider some of the following questions when researching the topic: **“The Civil Rights Movement and Its Impact on American Life.”**

- What were some of the challenges and difficulties that people faced during the civil rights movement in our nation’s history?
- How do you think children and young adults felt during that time?
- Who were some of the civil rights leaders?
- What similar challenges and difficulties face people in our nation today?
- What have you learned from doing the research on this topic?

Be sure to include in your essay how reading about this topic has influenced you. Include a list of references with your essay.

The following is a list of books and resources compiled by scholastic.com that might be helpful in your research on the civil rights movement in America.

*Glory Be* by Augusta Scattergood (ages 9-12)

*Belle Teal* by Ann M. Martin (ages 9-12)

*The Watsons Go to Birmingham* by Christopher Paul Curtis (ages 9 & up)

*One Crazy Summer* by Rita Williams-Garcia (ages 9-12)

*Round and Round Together* by Amy Nathan (ages 12 & up)

*Spies of Mississippi: The True Story of the Spy Network That Tried to Destroy the Civil Rights Movement* by Rick Bowers (12 & up)

Online Resources:

*Rosa Parks: How I Fought for Civil Rights*

*Integrating Central High: The Melba Pattillo Story*

Additional books:

*Martin’s Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* by Doreen Rappaport

*Through My Eyes* by Ruby Bridges

Guidelines: Students in the NYC Public Schools are invited to participate as follows:

- Students in Grades 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 should write 500 words or more.
- Students in Grades 4 and 5 should write 400 words or more.
- Students in Grades 2 and 3 should write 300 words or more.

Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:

accuracy of content, presentation, originality, neatness, quality of research, adherence to topic, proper use of language conventions, proper use of punctuation and grammar.

In addition, all entries must:

be typed or neatly written using dark blue or black ink on 8 ½ x 11 paper with margins; have a cover sheet that includes: the title or topic of the essay, school, district, borough, student's first and last name, grade, class; the teacher's first and last name and email address, the principal's first and last name and email address, and parent's full name and address.

Important: Provide citations of references. A bibliography must be included. Essays which do not include references will not be considered. Essays written in pencil will not be considered.

*Only three (3) entries per school will be accepted. Entries will not be returned.*

DEADLINE:

**All entries must be postmarked by Friday, January 6, 2017.**

PRIZES

- Each winner will receive a certificate of achievement and a \$25 Barnes and Noble gift card at the ABENY "Bridge from Africa" ceremony during Black History Month, Saturday, February 4, 2017, at the Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201
- Principals or their designees will be notified by email of the winners.
- If there are questions, contact Dr. Sheilah Bobo at sheilahbobo@gmail.com or call her at 917-412-9099.

Please mail essay entries to:

Dr. Sheilah Bobo  
ABENY Black History Month Co-Chair  
454 East New York Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225