




Black History Month Contest: My Inspired Journey

Waterloo Elementary School
Guidelines for 2019



In celebration of Black History month and inspired by the enthusiasm and the effort put forth by our students during the Young Author contest, we would like to invite all of our Waterloo students to participate in the "My Inspired Journey" contest.

Students, in grades K through 5, will be able to submit an essay and/or illustration/caption for the competition. Each entry must demonstrate how a student's life has been inspired or influenced by an African American leader.

Too often, we focus on the accomplishments of historical leaders and not the impacted they had on our lives. It is our goal to have students make a personal connection and reflect on how their current and future lives could be influenced as a result of the achievements and/or life of an African American Leader.



Who is this contest for?

Waterloo students grades K-5

Students that want to showcase their writing and/or creativity

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.” —Dr. Mae Jemison, first African-American female astronaut



How does the contest work?

Write an original essay.

Be sure to type using Times Roman or Comic Sans and 12 point font. Also, be sure to save the file.

Fill out the cover sheet form.

Entries are due no later than Tuesday, February 26th



What can I enter?

An original essay that is a minimum of 2 paragraphs, but no longer than 2 typed pages

--OR--

illustration with a caption

“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”

—Thurgood Marshall, first African American U.S. Supreme Court member



What can I enter?

All entries must ...

Explain how an African American Leader has influenced or inspired you?



Who can help me?

- You must be the author!
- Adults may help you edit, but the ideas must be yours.
- You cannot submit an entry with a friend.
- You can use the book or digital resources to help with background knowledge or research. However, you may not plagiarize text or copy illustrations.

“Have a vision. Be demanding.” —Colin Powell



Other rules?

- No graphics on your written essay. All illustration must be on a sheet of paper separate from your essay.
- Essays and illustrations of a violent nature will be deemed inappropriate and will not be judged.
- Do not write your name on your work. (your name and other information goes on the cover sheet only)



How can I win?

- Write an essay that reflects your creativity, uses appropriate language, and is inspirational.
- Your essay should clearly demonstrate how an African American leader has influenced or inspired you.

“We all have dreams. In order to make dreams come into reality, it takes an awful lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline and effort.”

—Jesse Owens, world record-setting Olympic athlete



How will I know if I win?

All winners will be announced during the morning announcements on *Thursday, February 28th*

The list of winners will also be shared with the community through eSchoolnews.

We will have two winners from each grade.

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” —Booker T. Washington



What can I win?

All participants in the contest will receive a certificate.

Two winners will be selected from grades K-5.

Each winner will receive a certificate and a special prize.

The awards for the winners will be handout by a special guest.

"You have to know what sparks the light in you so that you, in your own way, can illuminate the world." - Oprah Winfrey



What should I think about when writing?

What is leadership? Define what the word means to you and give an example.

What qualities make someone a good leader? Why?

Do you consider yourself to be a leader or a follower? Why?

Many great leaders are determined and committed to their causes. What do they feel passionately about—and then explain how you could lead others to also care about your cause.

“Whatever we believe about ourselves and our ability comes true for us.” —Susan L. Taylor, journalist



What should I think about when writing?

What qualities do they have that make them a good leader? Which quality do you share with him or her? Which quality could you improve upon?

Why is it important for leaders to be good listeners?

Think about a time when you also responded to leadership in your life.

What made you decide to listen to the leader you encountered?

What qualities make him or her a good leader?

“Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face.”

—Carol Moseley-Braun, politician and lawyer



What should I think about when writing?

What are some of the challenges that leaders face?

How do they positivity play a role in leadership and tough situations.

Does a good leader take risks, or does a good leader play it safe in order to protect his or her team? Why?

Is leadership important to you? Why or why not?

“One day our descendants will think it incredible that we paid so much attention to things like the amount of melanin in our skin or the shape of our eyes or our gender instead of the unique identities of each of us as complex human beings.”

—Franklin Thomas, activist, philanthropist, and former president of the Ford Foundation



What should I think about when writing?

When you had to make a tough decision, how did you decide what to do?

What does it mean to be a good leader?

Can a leader influence people to do something bad—or do leaders only use their influence for good? Why or why not?

Can leaders ever follow other people—or do they always need to lead? Why or why not?

“Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly.”

—Langston Hughes



What should I think about when writing?

Write about a time when someone else looked to you to be a leader. What did you do? How did you respond?

How can you improve your own leadership skills?

One of the best things a good leader can do is to keep going even after making a mistake. When you make a mistake, how do you respond? Is there anything you could do to improve your response?

What do you think is the hardest part about being a good leader?

“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.” —Frederick Douglass



What should I think about when writing?

Do they think it is more important to fit in with the crowd or to show your individuality?

Great leaders must also be great communicators. How do they make other people listen to what he or she has to say?

How are they a good leader? What can you learn from him or her about leadership?

“The time is always right to do what is right.” —Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BEST OF LUCK TO ALL!!!

Happy writing!!!

“I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality.... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.





Journal Buddies:

<https://www.journalbuddies.com/special-writing-topics/30-leadership-writing-prompt-ideas-for-kids/>

Inspiring Quotes:

<https://www.entrepreneur.com/slideshow/309311>

<https://parade.com/260134/linzlowe/15-inspiring-quotes-for-black-history-month-freedom-is-never-given/>