

Background Information on the 2016 Black History Month Student Challenge Theme:

I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome & Achieve

In 1915, Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). When Dr. Woodson founded the Association, he labored under the belief that historical truth would crush falsehoods and usher in a new era of equality, opportunity, and racial democracy, and it has been its charge for over century.

Each year ASALH establishes the national Black History Month theme. This year's national Black History Month theme is "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories". The history of African Americans unfolds across the canvas of America, beginning before the arrival of the Mayflower and continuing to the present. From port cities where Africans disembarked from slave ships to the battle fields where their descendants fought for freedom, from the colleges and universities where they pursued education to places where they created communities during centuries of migration, the imprint of Americans of African descent is deeply embedded in the narrative of the American past. These sites prompt us to remember and over time became hallowed grounds.

One cannot tell the story of America without preserving and reflecting on the places where African Americans have made history. The sites that we remember this Black History Month tell the story of our struggle for equal citizenship during the American century.

On August 28, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his famous "I Have a Dream Speech" on the hallowed grounds of the Lincoln memorial in Washington DC during the civil rights March on Washington. Dr. King's speech spoke of his dreams and desires for America's future and for Black people to overcome the impacts of racism.

This year, the Legal Services Corporation Black History Month Student Challenge theme "**I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome & Achieve**" seeks to prompt students to think about a dream they have, (not necessarily like Dr. Kings) and express through the various challenge formats how they have, or plan to, overcome challenges and achieve that dream.

Below are the Student Challenge Guidelines for each of the various participation categories.

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE
2016 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHALLENGE

I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome and Achieve

CHALLENGE GUIDELINES – ESSAY/POETRY/SHORT STORY

- Essay, short story, or poem must be written based on the theme ***I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome and Achieve***.
- Essay, short story, or poem submission must be solely the student's original work.
- The essay, short story, or poem must clearly reflect the student's point of view (e.g., an essay should not simply be a report of historical facts).
- Essay, short story, or poem must not include any offensive or derogatory language.
- Essay or short story must be a *minimum of 1,000 words* and not exceed three (3) typed pages (double spaced) on 8-1/2 X 11 in font size 12.
- Poem should not exceed two (2) typed pages (double spaced) on 8-1/2 X 11 in font size 12. No minimum number of words.
- Submission must include the student's name and grade.
- Must be accompanied by a submission form.
- Submissions that do not adhere to all of the challenge guidelines will not be eligible.
- **All entries must be received by no later than 5 p.m. Wednesday, February 17, 2016 to qualify. No late submissions will be accepted.**

Submit entry by email, fax, or postal mail.

- o Email address: BHM@lsc.gov
- o Fax: 202-337-6797, attention Black History Month Challenge
- o Mailing address: LSC, Black History Month Challenge, 3333 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007

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CHALLENGE GUIDELINES – MUSIC

- Music must be original and representative of the theme: ***I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome and Achieve***.
- Music submission must be solely student's original work.
- Music submission must not include any offensive or derogatory language.
- Music submission should be a minimum of one (1) minute in length and not more than four (4) minutes.
- Music should be submitted as an MP file or as a video file and must include the typed lyrics.
- Music submissions must include an explanation or description of how the music relates to the theme. Explanation/description must be typed and double-spaced and include the student's name and grade.
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CHALLENGE GUIDELINES – VIDEO

Video must be representative of the theme: ***I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome and Achieve***

- Video must be solely the student's original work.
- Video must be no longer than 5 minutes.
- Video must not include any offensive or derogatory language or images.
- Videos may be submitted with a web link to an accessible video website such as YouTube or Vimeo.
- Video submissions must include an explanation or description of the work and its connection to the theme. Explanation/description should be typed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and include the student's name and grade.
- Video must be accompanied by a submission form.
- Submissions that do not adhere to all of the challenge guidelines will not be eligible.
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CHALLENGE GUIDELINES – ART/PHOTOGRAPHY

Art/photography must be representative of the theme: ***I Have a Dream, Too: Overcome and Achieve***

- Art/photography work must be solely the student's original work.
- Art/photography may be drawings (color pencils, crayons, charcoal, markers, etc.), paintings (oil, acrylic, watercolor), paper collages, and/or photographs.
- Art/photography must be no larger than 24" x 36" and must be mounted on foam poster board or other rigid surface.
- Art/photography must not include any offensive or derogatory language or images.
- Artistic submissions must include an explanation or description of the work and its connection to the theme. Explanation/description should be typed on an 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper and include the student's name and grade.
- Must be accompanied by a submission form.
- Submissions that do not adhere to all of the challenge guidelines will not be eligible.
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