

Background Information on the 2017 Black History Month Student Challenge Theme:

The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted?

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 "The Crisis in Black Education". African American history is rich in centuries-old efforts of resistance to this crisis: the slaves' surreptitious endeavors to learn; the rise of black colleges and universities after the Civil War; unrelenting battles in the courts; the black history movement; the freedom schools of the 1960s; and local community-based academic and mentorship programs that inspire a love of learning and thirst for achievement. Addressing the crisis in black education should be considered one of the most important goals in America's past, present, and future.

This year, the Legal Services Corporation Black History Month Student Challenge theme "**The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted?**" seeks to prompt students to think about what specific challenges Black students may face today in their educational environment that may be hindering them from achieving their educational goals and what can be done to address the crisis in black education

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

PARTNERING FOR THE FUTURE
2017 BLACK HISTORY MONTH CHALLENGE

The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted?

CHALLENGE GUIDELINES – ESSAY/POETRY/SHORT STORY

- Essay, short story, or poem must be written based on the theme ***The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted.***
- 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 submitted to the Legal Services Corporation by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 17, 2017 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: ***The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted.***
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- 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: ***The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted.***
- 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: ***The Crisis in Black Education – How Am I Impacted.***
- 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.
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