



ALPHA PHI ALPHA
FRATERNITY, INC.
Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter | Prince William County, VA



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Xi Alpha Lambda Chapter

and

Ira Dorsey Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc.

2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Oratorical Contest Guidelines and Application Form

Dear Friends,

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Xi Alpha Lambda Prince William County Chapter and the Ira Dorsey Scholarship Endowment Fund, Inc. proudly present the **Fifth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contest** on Saturday, January 18, 2020 at the Waterford Springfield, 6715 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150. This year the theme of the contest is ***The Measure of a Man***.

The contest honors the birthday and legacy of Dr. King, who was one of the most renowned Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Students interested in competing may register by completing the enclosed registration form, which includes a copy of the rules, requirements, and judging criteria. The contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions: Hubert "Ronnie" Bagley, (770) 490-2874, bagleyronnie@gmail.com; or Ron Atwater, (909) 743-3892, atwaterr1@icloud.com.

Contest Guidelines

We invite students from the National Capital Region high schools to participate by creating an original speech based on this year's theme. Three finalists will be selected. **The finalists must deliver their speeches** in front of a public audience, with minimal reference to notes, for the competition.

Prior to the competition, the finalists will participate in preliminary speech reviews. Finalists will also be given an opportunity to receive coaching by an assigned mentor who will assist in strengthening speech content and honing presentation skills. All speeches must have original content and have no more than 1,000 words in length (8-10 minutes).

On the day of the event, finalists will be expected to arrive at the Waterford at Springfield no later than 9:15 AM. Upon arrival, the student must present a copy of the essay or speech, typed and double-spaced to the Chief Judge. A parent or guardian must accompany each finalist. The finalists are encouraged to extend invitations to members of their family, classmates, teachers, churches and friends. Finalists and two parents/guardians each will be admitted free of charge.



Essay Question: Dr. King's quote "*The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy*", first appeared in a book called *The Measure of a Man*, published in 1959. The book was a publication of two sermons Martin Luther King gave at a conference sponsored by the United Church of Christ in 1958 at Purdue University. It later appeared in a sermon collection called *Strength to Love* (1963).

In this quote, Dr. King is alluding to the test of one's character that becomes evident in times of difficulty. While it is fairly easy to retain good morals when facing no trials in life, it is when people face adversity that their true selves become evident.

- **How does this quote apply in the context of today's political and social environment when considering current social movements?**
- **Is there anyone in the current political or social environment whose actions inspire you to do more as it relates to the quote? If so, who and why?**
- **As Generation Z demographic cohort, what can you and others of your generation do, both personally and collectively, to put this quote into action to make our nation a better place for all citizens?**

Evaluation of Essays: The top three essay finalists will be selected from the field of applicants and required to present their essays competitively during the Fifth Annual MLK Oratorical Contest on January 18, 2020 at the Waterford Reception Center in Springfield, Virginia.

Finalists will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

- **Focus:** Examines how well the essay responds to the various parts of the question.
- **Organization:** Looks at the structure of the essay and the strength of the position taken.
- **Conclusions:** Examines how well the essay is summarized and closing thoughts presented.
- **Voice:** Considers how well the essay engages the reader. Does the essay fully capture the reader's attention?
- **Style and Mechanics:** Examines how well the essay is written in terms of grammar, spelling, punctuation, word-use and sentence structure.
- **Oral Presentation:** Examines how well the orator presents his/her essay to an audience.

Deadline for submission: A typed copy of the written speech and the Oratorical Contest entry form **must be emailed to MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com no later than November 30, 2019.** The entry form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.

Contest Awards/Recognition: Upon completion of essay presentations at the MLK Oratorical Contest, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finalists will be selected by a panel of judges and given monetary awards valued at \$500, \$300, and \$200 respectively.



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*** Entry Form Below ***



2020 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Oratorical Contestant Information

Student's Name _____

Parents'/Guardians' Name(s) _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade

| | | | |
|---|----|----|----|
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | | | |

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Parent's Signature _____

Please email your essay *and* the Contestant Information page to
MLKOratoricalContest@gmail.com