

Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ)

“... invoking a community of respect and Justice”



34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration of Macomb County Spoken Word Poetry Contest

Theme: **Be Bold Be Brave Be Courageous**

Who

High School Students

When

Deadline is Monday, **December 4, 2020**. Finalists will be contacted by January 3, 2021. Winners will be announced at the 2021 MLK Holiday Celebration on Monday night, January 18, 2021

What

Write a Spoken Word and submit a video recording of your recitation that conveys an interpretation of the 2021 MLK Holiday Celebration theme: **Be Bold Be Brave Be Courageous**

The late Congressman John R. Lewis once stated:

"You **must be bold, brave, and courageous** and find a way... to get in the way." - John Lewis

To learn more about Congressman John Lewis and his work with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. go to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute:

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/lewis-john>

How

Here is what you need to do:

- Submit your entry by **December 4, 2020**
- Time Limitation –Roughly two minutes will be permitted for each Spoken Word
- Contestants will record delivery of the poem from memory

Spoken Word Poetry Contest

- Contestants must upload a video recording of the spoken word to the internet(e.g., YouTube) and forward the link in a single email to 342021mlk@gmail.com
- Only links attached in the email will be considered
 - **In the body of the email;** include your NAME, AGE, EMAIL ADDRESS, HOME ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, SCHOOL NAME, SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME.
- Contestants will introduce themselves by stating in complete sentences: “Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is...”
 - Name (first and last)
 - Age
 - Grade
 - School and city
- Contestants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

The Spoken Word:

- Is based on the 2021 MLK theme (Be Bold Be Brave Be Courageous)
- Uses powerful language and strong imagery
- Provokes an emotional response in the reader/audience
- Encourages the reader/audience to thought or action

The recitation:

- Composure (self-confidence, audience appeal)
- Voice quality (audibility, articulation, inflection of voice)

The Selection Process

- Finalists will be selected by the MLK Holiday Planning Committee
- The decision of the judges is final

Prizes

- Cash Prizes: \$50
- Three Winners
- Promoted via social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram)
- Featured during the 34th Annual MLK Holiday Celebration

Other Rules

1. All submissions must conform to your school and district policies regarding appropriate content
2. Spoken Word submitted after the **December 4, 2020** deadline may not be accepted
3. Entrants agree to be bound by the official contest rules and decisions of the judges

Spoken Word Poetry Contest

Why Enter

EXPOSURE-

- Your work will be viewed by the Metro Tri-County community
- Featured on ICRJ's Social Media Pages (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn)
- Featured in media releases

VALUABLE EXPERIENCE- Entering a contest is a terrific way to hone your craft and share what you create.

GOOD CAUSE – The **ICRJ** is a not-for-profit organization working to promote social justice, provide education, and build bridges of understanding among people of different cultures. Your photo art will help raise awareness of our work.

Anything Else

- Understanding of Publications:
 - All contest materials are the property of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice. By submitting your project, you confirm that you understand that your photos become property of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice and that whether a winning entry or not, it may be used by the ICRJ in whole or in part, royalty free, in any printed or electronic media and in promotional materials, including fundraising and online publications.
- Projects submitted for the contest will remain the property of the ICRJ and may also be used in conjunction with ICRJ promotional material

Questions:

Carol Allen Sullivan, 34th MLK Holiday Celebration Committee, 342021mlk@gmail.com
Or 586-463-3675