

## 2023 RGA Black History Month Essay Contest Judging Criteria

1. Essay submission must focus on the theme “Health and Wellness Issues Facing African Americans Today” with **a minimum of 250 words for middle school students and a minimum of 350 words for high school students (double spaced)**.
2. Student’s essay reflects research and describes specific health issues, why they exist and what needs to be done to reduce health risks and improve wellness concerns of African American families.
3. The essay should also include how the student feels about the topic and its relevance in society today.
4. Essays will be judged on how well it is organized, quality of discussion on topic, & clarity of content.
5. Judging will focus on demonstrated accuracy in writing mechanics (use of grammar, spelling & punctuation) and how well the student addresses personal reflection and relevance of topic.
6. Essay information is the student’s work and not copied and pasted from another source.
7. Essay content is not solely information student copied and pasted from another source.