

2026 Black History Essay Contest Judging Criteria

Judging Criteria:

1. Essays should be typed and double spaced.
2. Essays should meet the word requirements: 150 words for elementary students, 250 words for middle school and 350 words for high school.
3. They will be judged on **organization and relevance** (introduction, relevance, and clarity of content).
4. Judging will focus on demonstrated accuracy in **writing mechanics** (use of grammar, spelling & punctuation) and how well the student addressed the topic.
5. Essays will be judged on originality and points will be taken for essays that are copied and pasted from another source.
6. Essays submitted after the February 7th deadline will not be evaluated.