

Million Man March San Antonio

ESSAY/ORATORICAL CONTEST

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Purpose

The purpose of the contest is to promote an understanding of the impact and importance of the Million Man March of 1995 and seeks to provide an opportunity for college students to express their thoughts and ideas on the theme "Justice or Else". The contest will also provide financial support of students' academic pursuits with a cash award for the winners. The official theme: **"Justice or Else!"**

Competition Date, Time & Location:

The Essay/Oratorical Contest will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015; 2pm on the Downtown Campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio in the Buena Vista Building - Lecture Hall, 501 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78207.

Eligibility

Contestants must be undergraduate students currently enrolled in a regionally accredited college or university in San Antonio, TX or the surrounding area between the ages 18 to 24. The contest is open to all college students without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

Speech & Awards

Each contestant must research, write and present their original essay/speech. The speech must contain references to the Million Man March of 1995 and its historical significance, while acknowledging the theme of the upcoming 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March – "Justice or Else". There will be a first (\$500) second (\$250) and third (\$100) place winner announced at the end of the competition. Each winner will receive a monetary award free of restrictions.

Organization of the Essay/Speech

The *speech must be original and prepared by the contestant.*

The speech must be typewritten and saved in a **Word or PDF document format**, (12 font- Times New Roman font), double-spaced, a minimum of 600 words and a maximum of 800 words, using Standard English. The speech must be logical, correct in form and content, relevant, and address the established theme. The speech must clearly document all references or copyrighted material cited in the oration and listed on a separate Reference page. The Reference page is not counted as part of the 800 maximum word limit and should not be included as part of speech delivery.

To enter the contest, please email the following (no hard copies accepted):

- ☐ Contestant name in the subject line followed by "Justice or Else" Contest
- ☐ Completed Contestant Entry Form
- ☐ Written Essay/Speech in a Word or PDF document
- ☐ Copy of your student identification card
- ☐ Proof of current enrollment at a local college or university
- ☐ Essay must be received by Friday, Sept. 18, 2015
- ☐ Email all documents to: Dr. Dorinda Rolle

Dorinda.rolle@utsa.edu

Contestants selected to present their speech will be notified via email no later than 9/21/15. Speeches will be judged by a panel of community leaders. The Decision of the judges is final.

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FAQ

1. Who is sponsoring the essay/oratorical contest

The contest is jointly sponsored by the San Antonio Local Organizing Committee/20th Anniversary Million Man March, the African American Studies Program and the Consortium for Social Transformation at the University of Texas at San Antonio.

2. Who can enter the contest and when is the deadline to enter the contest?

Undergraduate students currently enrolled in a regionally accredited college or university in San Antonio, TX or the surrounding area between the ages 18 to 24. Entry deadline is Sept. 18, 2015.

3. Is the contest only for African American male students?

Not at all! The contest is open to all college students without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, or religion.

4. When and where will the contest be held?

Saturday, October 3, 2015 on the Downtown Campus of the University of Texas at San Antonio in the Buena Vista Building - Lecture Hall, 501 W. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd., San Antonio, TX 78207.

5. How will the contest be judged?

A panel of judges will review and score the essays prior to October 3. Individuals whose essays score highest will advance to the oratorical phase of the contest. A second panel of judges will score the speeches on October 3. The three highest scores from the combined essay and speech will determine the winners.

6. If I write the essay, but cannot attend the October 3 speech contest or do not wish to speak at the contest, can someone else read my essay/speech?

No. If selected, contestants must attend and participate in the speech portion of the contest.

7. Will the identity of the essay writers be revealed to the judges?

No. The judges will not have access to any identifying information of the contestants. Family members of judges are not eligible to participate.

8. How will I know if my essay was selected as a finalist?

You will be notified no later than Sept. 21 via email.

9. Will the winners receive awards on the day of the event?

No. Winners will receive awards within 30 days of the event.

10. To whom may I address questions?

Email Dr. Dorinda Rolle
Dorinda.rolle@utsa.edu

Million Man March San Antonio Essay/Oratorical Entry Form

First and Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Email address _____ Phone: (____) _____

College Level (check one): _____ Freshmen _____ Sophomore _____ Junior _____ Senior

College/University Name _____

School Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Title of Essay _____

The information above is true and correct. The submitted essay is my original work. I agree that if my essay is selected as a finalist, I will orally present my essay to contest judges on October 3, 2015, in person.

Signature of Student

This Entry form may be copied.

All entries must be RECEIVED no later than Friday, September 18, 2015

To enter the contest, please email the following (no hard copies accepted):

- **Contestant name in the subject line followed by “Justice or Else” Contest**
- **Contestant Entry Form**
- **Written Speech in Word Document**
- **Copy of student identification card**
- **Proof of current enrollment at a local college or university**
- **Email all documents to: Dr. Dorinda Rolle**
Dorinda.rolle@utsa.edu