

2010

Black History Month Contest For New Jersey High School Students

The Minorities in the Profession Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association is pleased to announce its annual **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTEST** in accordance with the rules set forth in this document. The purpose of the competition is to enhance interest in the practice of law by minorities and to encourage excellence in writing by New Jersey high school students.

For further information contact:

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RULES FOR THE ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTEST

The following rules will govern the **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTEST** sponsored by the Minorities in the Profession Section of the New Jersey State Bar:

1. The competition is open to any New Jersey high school student. Students may not collaborate.
2. The student's entry must be in essay form.
3. In judging the essays, the criteria the judges will consider include:
 - a. creativity
 - b. quality of writing
 - c. interest to the public
 - d. adherence to the specified limitations on length and other competition requirements.
 - essays should not be more than 1,000 words in length or 5 pages and should be typed double-spaced on letter sized (8 ½ by 11 inches) paper. (*See* Essay Competition Instructions)
 - essays will be judged without knowledge of the identity of the author. **The author's name, school, home address, telephone number and/or email address should be placed only on a separate cover sheet with the name of the essay. The essay should not contain the name of the student-author in the body of the essay.**
4. Three total winners will be chosen.
5. All submissions become the property of the New Jersey State Bar Association. By submitting an entry, the student agrees that the entry has not been previously published.
6. All entries must be received by **5:00 PM on Wednesday, January 27, 2010.**
7. The entries will be reviewed by a panel of at least three (3) judges. Contestants will be notified of the results of the competition by telephone and/or email on or before **February 2, 2010.**
8. Please send all entries to:
 - Postal Mail** Tamika S. Wilson
New Jersey State Bar Association
New Jersey Law Center
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1500
 - Email** To: twilson@njsba.com
Subject: MIPS Black History Month Contest

Essay should be attached to email as a Microsoft Word (.doc, *.docx) or Adobe (*.pdf) file.
Word Perfect (*.wpd) files will not be accepted.*

PRIZES

The **First Place Winner** will receive a \$250.00 American Express Gift Card/Cheque and a plaque.

The **Second Place Winner** will receive a \$100.00 gift certificate for a performance at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark and a plaque.

The **Third Place Winner** will receive a \$50.00 gift card to Barnes & Noble and a plaque.

AWARDS CEREMONY

The Awards Ceremony will take place at a reception as follows:

DATE: Wednesday – February 17, 2010

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

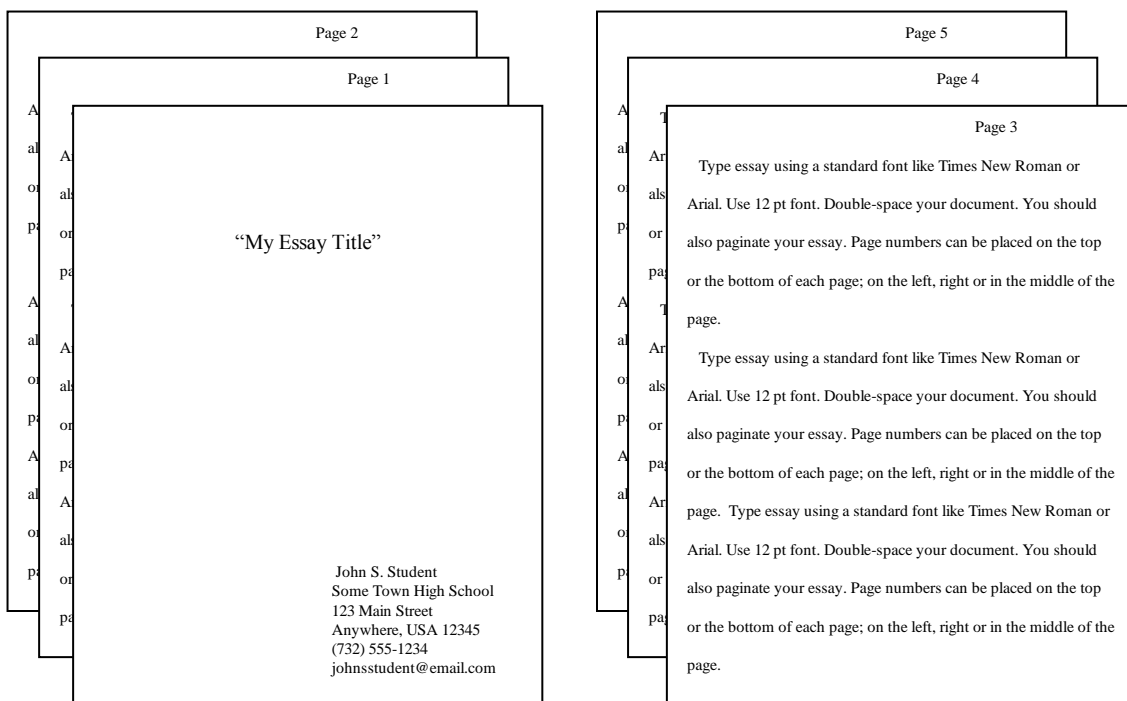
PLACE: New Jersey State Bar Association
New Jersey Law Center
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, New Jersey
732-249-5000 or www.njsba.com for directions

ESSAY COMPETITION INSTRUCTIONS

Read the entire Essay Topic Description and write a 1000 word (5 page) essay based on the information provided.

Formatting: Essay must be typed, 12 point font and double spaced. The author's name, school, home address, telephone number and/or email address should be placed only on a separate cover sheet with the name of the essay, as shown below. The essay should not contain the name of the student-author in the body of the essay.

Sample Cover Page/Essay Formatting



Submitting Essays: Students or teachers may submit essays via postal mail or email by 5:00 PM Wednesday - January 27, 2010. Electronic copies should be submitted as Word documents or PDF files. Word Perfect (*.wpd) files will not be accepted.

Mail entries to:

Tamika S. Wilson
New Jersey State Bar Association
One Constitution Square
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1500

Email entries (as an attachment) to:

twilson@njsba.com
Subject: MIPS Black History Month Contest

ESSAY TOPIC DESCRIPTION

FOREWORD

In March 2008, President Barack Obama, then Presidential Candidate Obama, gave a speech at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania entitled, “[A More Perfect Union](#).” The speech came on the heels of intense media coverage of repeated inflammatory racial remarks made by the candidate’s then-pastor, Reverend Jeremiah Wright. Candidate Obama’s speech has been analyzed and dissected by countless commentators, scholars, politicians and clergy. The speech has been both applauded and maligned. Thus, a consensus has not been reached on the quality, value or impact of that speech which nevertheless has been dubbed by some as *the* seminal speech on race relations of this century.

However, everyone can agree that Candidate Obama was able to mobilize young people in a manner that was unprecedented in a presidential campaign. Political parties at home and abroad have dissected the campaign’s strategy and sought to replicate it. Candidate Obama’s campaign and ideology resonated with young people across race, creed, gender and economic strata. Some wonder whether this “twenty-something” coalition will catapult that energy into other local, state and national races and whether those young voices will demand to be heard in all segments of our society.

PROJECT

Imagine you have gone through a time warp and it is the year 2022. You have been asked to serve as the Northeast Regional Strategist for galvanizing the youth vote for your candidate in the 2024 election. The country’s population has changed and Caucasians are no longer the majority ethnic group. Indeed, there is no majority ethnic group. However, those identifying themselves as Latino, African American, Asian and “other,” when combined, constitute 60 % of the population. Thus, the three major parties (Democratic, Republican and Green) are fully aware of the necessity of reaching these groups. Their respective candidates are a Caucasian male, a Caucasian female and a female of mixed heritage (with parents and grandparents of Asian, Latin and African lineage).

You have been asked to prepare a speech for your candidate to address a coalition of young people called the Obamanians who range in age from 16 to 32. The group was founded in 2011 to assist President Obama in his re-election bid. Its worldwide membership exceeds 25 million, with 70% in the United States and 30% abroad. At least 30% of the members claim to have dual citizenship which, based on current law, gives them full citizenship rights in at least two countries. The majority of those with dual citizenship, in addition to the United States, boast citizenship in various countries including Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and India.

Your research team compiles extensive data about the group’s origin and founders. As you review the mission statement, founding principles and constitution, you immediately

recognize that several provisions were adopted from former President Barack Obama’s “[A More Perfect Union](#)” speech which had been given 14 years prior.

Those provisions are as follows:

We cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together—unless we perfect our union by understanding that we may have different stories, but we hold common hopes; that we may not look the same and we may not have come from the same place, but we all want to move in the same direction—towards a better future for our children and our grandchildren.

We cannot walk away from the complexities of race in this country. And if we walk away we simply retreat into our respective corners, we will never be able to come together and solve challenges like health care, or education, or the need to find good jobs for every American.

Anger exists within segments of the white community. Most working-and middle-class white Americans don’t feel that they have been particularly privileged by their race.

A conviction rooted in faith in God . . . and the American people- that working together we can move beyond some of our old racial wounds and that in fact we have no choice if we are to continue on the path of a more perfect union.

Latino and Asian, rich and poor, young and old—is still irrevocably bound to a tragic past.

Your candidate insists on directly tackling the issue of race relations; however, you are very concerned that such a speech, if not perfectly presented, could cause your candidate to lose some key votes. Of course, as any good strategist would, you will naturally read the speech in its entirety.

You should create your own reality of how society will be in 2022, including the advances and challenges that society will be facing at that time.

Some considerations:

- How will society look from a technological and economical point of view?
- Will cars be obsolete?
- What will be the dominant industry hiring young people?
- What kind of relationship will the United States have with Asia, Africa, Europe, etc.?
- Will ethnic coalitions exist, and if so, how strong will they be?

Simply put, create your society, select a candidate and then draft a speech that would best garner votes for your candidate.

**HAVE FUN, BE CREATIVE, YOU ARE NOT LIMITED BY YOUR PARENTS’
OR TEACHERS’ REALITIES!!!!!!**