Arizona State University
42nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

ESSAY/POETRY CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Entry Deadline: Postmarked by October 2, 2026

Theme:

Please check appropriate grade range:

☐ K-2 ☐ 3-5 ☐ 6-8 ☐ 9-12

STUDENT:

_____ _____ _____
First Name *M.I.* *Last Name*

_____
Address **PRINT LEGIBLY**

_____ _____ _____ _____
City *State* *Zip Code* *Grade*

_____ _____
Parent/Guardian Name ***Parent/Guardian's Phone and Email (required)***

SCHOOL:

_____ _____
School Name *School Phone*

_____ _____
Teacher's Name *Teacher's Email*

_____
Address

_____ _____ _____
City *State* *Zip Code*

_____ _____
Principal's Name *School District*

Questions? Contact Diney Ransford at ASU Cultural Affairs
Phone 480.965.3892 – Email: asumlk@asu.edu
website: mlk.asu.edu

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This contest is open to all K-12 students in the state of Arizona.

Why participate? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. believed true leadership begins with serving others. Writing about a person or experience that reflects leadership through service gives you the opportunity to share a meaningful story and inspire those around you, preserve important lessons, celebrate everyday leaders and inspire future generations.

ESSAY/POETRY ENTRY GUIDELINES/RULES:

- Type or neatly handwrite an essay or poem which best describes a person or experience in your life or community that you believe best exemplifies leadership through serving others (*no celebrities please*). How does this individual or experience reflect our theme, Face of a leader? Give your essay/poem a title.
- Limit your entry to 250 words or less on 8.5"x11" single sided plain or lined paper.
- Essays should be packaged so they remain flat when sent for judging.
- The entry must be the original work of an individual student.

CONTEST INFORMATION:

- Judges will examine content, organization, sentence fluency, voice, word choice and writing conventions in making their decisions.
- Winning entries will be notified after November 6, 2026.
- Arizona State University shall have the right in its sole discretion to use, reproduce, publish or display entries submitted. All entries shall become the property of Arizona State University. Entries will not be returned.

PRIZES:

- **FIRST PRIZE:** $100 Gift Card
- **SECOND PRIZE:** $75 Gift Card
- **THIRD PRIZE:** $50 Gift Card

TO ENTER CONTEST:

- Produce Essay/Poetry in required dimensions as noted.
- Put your name on the back of your essay. **DO NOT** put your name on the front of your essay.
- Complete this entry form legibly and attach your essay with a paperclip to the back of this entry form.

Mail to:
ASU Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
c/o Diney Ransford, ASU Cultural Affairs
PO Box 870205
Tempe, AZ 85287-0205

Physical Address:
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Tempe, AZ 85281