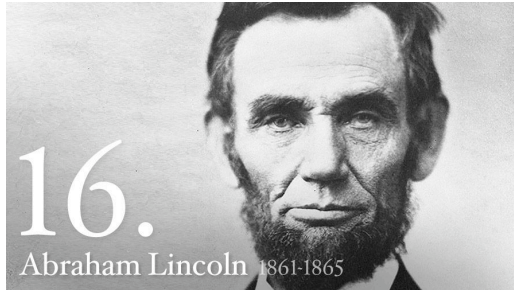


# Black History Month Essay Contest 2009 -- Has Dr. King's Dream been fulfilled . . . ?



Excerpt--2<sup>nd</sup> Inaugural, March 4, 1865 . . . .  
 If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope— fervently do we pray —that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether." With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan — to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.

Excerpt -- I Have a Dream, August 28, 1963 . . .  
 But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice: In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. . . . And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Excerpt – Inaugural address, January 20, 2009 . . .  
 On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord. On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas that for far too long have strangled our politics. We remain a young nation. But in the words of Scripture, the time has come to set aside childish things. The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace.

# **BLACK HISTORY MONTH THE DREAM FULFILLED 2009 ESSAY CONTEST**

## **THEME:**

Has President Obama's inauguration fulfilled the 'Dream' of Martin Luther King, Jr.? – Yes or no, why or why not.

## **CRITERIA:**

1. **Essays** should be typed and titled
2. Do not put your name on the **essay**; provide a cover sheet with your name.
3. **Essays** should not exceed **500 words**.
4. **Essays** should address the theme: "The Dream Fulfilled?"
5. Essays must be submitted to Monica Dubrey/Counselors' Office/Orange Park Campus by due date.

## **Judging your essay**

1. Essays will be judged by originality of ideas.
2. A panel of judges will decide the winning essays.
3. First, second and third place winners' essays will be published on SJRCC website and receive prizes

**Deadline is February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Winners announced and prizes awarded Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Contest is open to all SJRCC Faculty, Staff and Students. However, prizes are awarded only to students; faculty and staff will receive recognition.**



**St Johns River Community College**  
**Orange Park Campus**  
**283 College Drive**  
**Orange Park, Florida 32065**  
**Phone 904-276-6800**  
**Fax 904-276-6888**

## Media Release Form

I hereby authorize St. Johns River Community College, its District Board of Trustees and its employees to edit, reproduce, display, distribute, exhibit, or otherwise use the photographs, video, written or creative works without remuneration to me in whole or in part, for educational, instructional, promotional, public relations and advertising purposes in any manner, format or media, throughout the world, in perpetuity.

For these purposes, I waive and relinquish any personal rights and privacy rights.

I also release SJRCC and its employees from any and all claims for libel, slander, invasion of privacy or other claims based on SJRCC's use of the said works and agree to hold SJRCC harmless from any and all claims by the Third Parties.

*Student Name (printed):* \_\_\_\_\_

*Student Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_