

**Civil Rights in Monongalia County Before and After Martin Luther King  
2018-2019 NAACP MLK Essay Contest  
For Elementary, Middle, and High School Students**

**\$100 each for the first-place elementary school essayist, middle school essayist, high school essayist  
Essay Contest Sponsored by the Morgantown-Kingwood Chapter of the NAACP and  
The Greater St. Paul AME Church  
(National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: [Morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com](mailto:Morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com))**

1. Follow this year's theme, "The 1950s vs. Today: Civil Rights in Monongalia County Before and After Martin Luther King."
2. Select a civil rights category in Monongalia County: (*Narrow your focus within the theme.*)
  - a. Public education (from 1st grade through 12th grade in schools; from undergraduate programs through graduate programs at West Virginia University)
  - b. Public accommodations (theaters, restaurants, public transportation, hotels, swimming pools, bathrooms, parks, water fountains, camps, etc.)
  - c. Housing (rentals and sales related to homes, apartments, mobile home parks, etc.)
  - d. Employment (schools, stores, restaurants, gas stations, etc., )
3. Learn about your chosen civil rights category in one or more ways:
  - a. Interview one or more persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in both the 1950s and today.
  - b. Interview informed descendants of a person or persons who experienced or witnessed activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in the 1950s. Drawing from their relatives' stories, what is different or not different today?
  - c. Find and read details in books, magazines, and newspapers that describe activities that occurred within your civil rights category in Monongalia County in both the 1950s and today.
4. Write and submit an essay about what you heard and read:
  - a. Keep your details focused on your chosen civil rights category in Monongalia County. Expand upon the basics: who, what, when, where, why, and how.
  - b. Provide documentation of all your sources: books, magazines, newspapers, etc. Include the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all persons you interviewed.
  - c. Type your essay, which must be a minimum of 300 words. You may supplement your research with copies of artwork and photographs. Put your name on each page you submit.
  - d. Ask your parent or legal guardian to complete the entry-waiver form.
  - e. Submit your essay and entry-waiver form by email or via the U.S. Postal Service. Emails must be received by 11:59 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, 2019. U.S. mail must be postmarked by Jan. 7, 2019. Email address: [morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com](mailto:morgantown.naacp3241@gmail.com)  
U.S. mail address: MLK Essay Contest, 1223 Vista Del Rio Drive, 26508.