“A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture”

Black History Essay Writing Contest 2015

Coastal Carolina Community College Black History Month Planning Committee invite the students of the college, as well as students throughout the Onslow County High Schools, to consider the legacy of contributions of African Americans over the past century.

Essay Guidelines

Essays must be four to six pages, and must be submitted from February 1–20, 2015 to the following email: blackhistorymonthessaycontest@gmail.com. All essays must be written in a cited, formatted style, such as Modern Language Association (MLA), American Psychological Association (APA), or Chicago Manual of Style. Be sure to include a cover page, and a page that documents your sources according to the style in which your paper is written. The subject for your essay must be selected from the attached four essay topics.

All essays will be reviewed by the following panel of judges: Sally Goodman, Veronica Howard, Bethany Hunter, Krystal Phillips, Elmer Price, KC Williams, and Clarice Wilson from Coastal’s administrative and faculty team.

Awards

Contest winners for both High School and Coastal’s students, will be presented with prizes at an awards ceremony featuring our special guest and renowned poet Professor Lenard Moore, who will recite some of his original works! The reception will be held on Coastal’s campus on Thursday, February 26th from 6:30–7:45 p.m. in Kenneth B. Hurst Continuing Education Building rooms 103 and 104.

First place: $75 and a gift basket
Second place: $50
Third place: Black History Month Book

See the back of this flyer for essay topics.
ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

OPTION #1
Valuable lessons in Black history may be found just a few steps away in the stories and documents that can be found in local libraries, historical organizations, universities or colleges, and online. Please venture out into the community to investigate the history and contributions of Black Americans in this city, county, and state. Identify a key individual, event, or milestone in Black history and discuss the manner in which they or it have affected the community. Also, as a whole, how have these contributions helped to foster more equality in this community?

OPTION #2
Explore the original goals of the Black activism, and the progress the movement has made over the last 100 years. Pick any two activists from the following list. How would you imagine these activists would envision where we are today? Explain what you believe you can do to build on the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement.

• Fanny Lou Hamer
• Frederick Douglass
• Ella Baker
• Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.
• Ida B. Wells Barnett

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULD CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

OPTION #1
Every February, the United States and Canada celebrate Black History Month. This is a celebration of notable people and events in the history of the African Diaspora outside of Africa. Please explore the history and explain why Black History Month celebrations still exist.

OPTION #2
The Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, has been said to have separated “the world of what was from the world of what could be.” The bridge was a metaphor for the segregated and unequal worlds of Black people and white people on the opposite sides of the river in Selma in the 1960s. In the 21st Century, think about what separates “the world of what was from the world of what could be” in our country today. What are the hindrances we face, and what changes could help “bridge” the gap to a better, more equal society?