

## **2025 Project on Racism Contest Guidelines**

### **ELIGIBILITY**

The 2025 Project on Racism Contest is open to any student in grades 1—12 attending public, private, parochial, or home school in the State of West Virginia; or any student under the age of twenty enrolled in a high school correspondence/TASC program in the State of West Virginia. We are again using the expanded contest including Essays, Music, & 5-minute films.

The student does NOT have to be a U.S. citizen.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

Please submit your Contact Information Form along with your original work. Use a paper clip to attach the Contact Information Form to your medium. Do NOT staple your Contact Information Form to your medium. There is no separate registration form.

### **ENTRY SUBMISSION**

Entries may be submitted on or before November 18 th , 2024. Each entry must include both an essay and a Contact Information Form. You will NOT receive acknowledgement of receipt.

Essays and Contact Information Forms may be submitted via e-mail, fax, U.S. Postal Service, or hand delivery. YWCA Wheeling is not responsible for entries not received due to network service outages or delays, computer difficulties, or any other technological malfunctions; or for entries that are lost, stolen, misdirected, late, ineligible, incomplete, or mutilated by the U.S. Postal Service.

Submit each entry only one time. Do NOT fax an entry multiple time. Do NOT fax and mail the same entry.

All entries submitted via e-mail must be received by midnight on November 18th , 2024. Please e-mail entries to [cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org](mailto:cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org) and type "Essay/Music/Film submission" in the subject line.

All entries submitted via fax must be received by midnight on November 18th , 2024. Please fax entries to 304-232-0513 and write "Essay submission" as the recipient.

All entries submitted via U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked on or before November 18 th , 2024. Please mail entries to: YWCA Wheeling, 1100 Chapline St, Wheeling, WV 26003, ATTN: Essay submission

All entries submitted via hand delivery must be received by 5:00 pm on November 18 th , 2024. Please deliver entries to YWCA Wheeling first floor reception desk at the above address Monday through Friday, between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

**2025 Project on Racism Contest  
Essay Competition**

**QUOTE**

“The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**

Essays should not include any information that identifies the student, teacher, principal, or school. Any essay that includes identifying information will be automatically disqualified.

All essays will be photocopied for judges. Any essay that is illegible after photocopying will be automatically disqualified.

Essays should be a maximum of four (4) pages.

Essays may be handwritten, typed, or computer-generated in 12-point Times New Roman font.

Essays must be in English.

Essays must be the original work of the student. Parents/teachers/guardians may type or write a student’s work verbatim.

Each student may submit only one (1) essay. Please submit only one copy, i.e., do not fax and mail the same essay.

Essays must be in black ink on white paper, double-spaced, and on one side of the paper only.

Please number pages at the bottom, i.e., 1 of 4, 2 of 4, etc.

Do not include drawings, references, or other attachments.

Do not use staples. Use a paper clip to attach the Contact Information Form and the essay.

**ESSAY PROMPTS GRADES 1 – 4**

Have you ever made someone else happy? How did that make you feel? Do you think you could be happy if people around you were unhappy?

**ESSAY PROMPTS GRADES 5 – 8**

Describe a time when you influenced someone else’s happiness?

Have you ever tried to do something to make someone else happy? Why?

**ESSAY PROMPTS GRADES 9 – 12 & TASC**

What are the first thoughts you have when you read the quote?

Does this quote make you think of a specific time or event in your life? Explain?

Does this quote apply to your approach toward life at all? If so, how?

## **2025 Project on Racism Contest Five-Minute Film Competition**

One of the newest additions to the Project on Racism contest is a Five-Minute Film Contest. We are giving all the students the opportunity to create a film of five (5) minutes or less in length that is inspired by or has a theme based on this year's quote.

### **QUOTE:**

“The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

The film's director(s) and actors must have been in high school, Middle school, or Elementary school while filming the project. This is a statewide film competition and thus accepts films from anywhere in WV, if you were in grades 1 through 12 when you made the film.

All films must be in English or subtitled in English.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:** Entries for the 2025 YWCA Project on Racism Five Minute Film Contest must be submitted on or before November 18 th , 2024.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students must submit entries as required on the entry form to be eligible. Entries received after the deadline set forth in these terms are ineligible, null, and void.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Create a film of five (5) minutes or less in length that is inspired by or has a theme based in this year's quote. The film can be created by phone, camera, or any other visual recording device.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Be sure to fill out the Contact Information Sheet and attach it or the information from it, with your submission.

### **SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS:**

Winners will be announced in the beginning of January 2025.

Winners will be chosen for their creativity, ingenuity, originality, and relevance of the entry. All winners will be notified by the email address or phone number provided in the entry form.

### **RULES FOR ENTRY:**

Entries may not contain content that contains curse words, gross violence, gore, nudity, or any sexual situations. Each Entry must include:

1. Completed Contact Information Form
2. A Flash Drive, download link, or CD containing the MP3 (The MP3 can also be emailed to [cdcdirector@ywcawheeling.org](mailto:cdcdirector@ywcawheeling.org))

## **2025 Project on Racism Contest Song/Music Competition**

Another addition to the Project on Racism contest is the Song/Music Contest. We are giving all the students the opportunity to create a song of three (3) minutes or less in length that is inspired by or has a theme based on this year's quote.

### **QUOTE:**

“The surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

The musicians or musical contributors must have been in High school, Middle school, or Elementary school during the school year 2024-2025. This is a statewide Song/Music competition and thus accepts music from anywhere in the state provided you were in grades 1 through 12 when you created the piece.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:** Entries for the 2025 YWCA Project on Racism Song/Music Contest must be submitted on or before November 18th , 2024

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students must submit entries as required on the entry form to be eligible. Entries received after the deadline set forth in these terms are ineligible, null, and void.

**HOW TO ENTER:** Create a song or musical piece of three (3) minutes or less in length that is inspired by or has a theme based on this year's quote. The music can be created by phone, studio, or any other recording equipment. All music and lyrics must be original. The song entered cannot be owned in any part by a music publishing company. Categories of music accepted include Alternative, Blues, Children's Music, Christian, Country, EDM (Electronic Dance Music), Folk, Instrumental, Jazz, Latin, R&B, Hip-Hop, & Rock. All songs must be in MP3 format.

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:** The Contact Information Sheet must be attached in some way to the entry, or the information from it must be submitted with your original work.

### **SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS:**

Winners will be announced in the beginning of January 2025.

Winners will be chosen for the creativity, ingenuity, originality, and relevance of their entry. All winners will be notified by the email address or phone number provided on the entry form.

### **RULES FOR ENTRY:**

Entries may not contain curse words, words of aggression or violence, or words of a sexual nature. Each entry must include the following:

1. Completed Contact Information Form
2. A Flash Drive, download link, or CD containing the MP3  
(The MP3 can also be emailed to [cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org](mailto:cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org) )

## **SELECTION OF WINNERS**

Winners will be selected according to the following criteria: grammar, originality, relevance to theme, and effective expression. Winners will be contacted via the email provided on the Contact Information Sheet and announced in the beginning of January 2025. All judgments are final.

## **CONDITIONS**

All submitted entries shall become the property of the YWCA Wheeling, and no submission will be acknowledged or returned. The copyright of the entry remains the exclusive property of the entrant.

If any entrant commits plagiarism or violates copyright law, the entrant is solely responsible for the act(s). The YWCA Wheeling is NOT responsible in cases of plagiarism and/or copyright infringement. If YWCA Wheeling receives any concrete evidence of plagiarism and/or copyright infringement after a winner is selected, then the prize shall be returned, and YWCA Wheeling shall remove that work from its website.

If you have any questions about the 2025 Project on Racism Essay Contest, please contact us at 304-232-0511 Ext. 24 or [cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org](mailto:cdcodirector@ywcawheeling.org)