

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
2025-2026  
Applications and Guidelines**



**THEME: Building Bridges, Not Walls**

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COORDINATING COMMITTEE - WPB**  
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# Application and Guidelines

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# **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

## **2026 Annual Competition Application**

### **THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”**

This application **MUST** be filled out completely for each entry by an applicant. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Competition Category: (Please check which category)

Art  Essay  Oratorical  Performing Arts  Photography  Poetry

#### **Section A:**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School/Teacher (Please indicate if home-schooled)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B: Performing Arts Contestants only.** (If you are not a Performing Arts Contestant, please proceed to section C.)

<b>Performance Division:</b>	<b>Vocal</b>	<b>Monologue</b>	<b>Instrumental</b>
	<b>Dance</b>	<b>Rap</b>	<b>Theater</b>

**Note: Group competitors must complete individual application forms.**

**Equipment Request:** MLKCC-WPB will provide onsite microphones, music stand, a piano, and a Computer. All other equipment must be provided by contestants.

#### **Section C:**

Disclosures/Liability: Images of entries may be reproduced for marketing and publicity purposes. Students and the public may photograph artwork. Utmost care will be given to all entries. However, MLKCC-WPB cannot assume any responsibility for the damage or loss of entries in transit. It is the responsibility of applicants in the photography competition to secure the necessary releases from identifiable persons shown in all images. I/We understand the information printed above and agree to comply with MLKCC-WPB rules and regulations regarding the 2026 competition.

# **2026 Fine Art Competition \_\_\_\_\_ Guidelines**

## **THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”**

### **THE ART COMPETITION IS THEME RELATED**

**Deadline:** Saturday, January 3, 2026

**Qualifying:** Levels: { } Level 1 (k-1); { } Level 2 (2-3); { } Level 3 (4-5);  
{ } Level 4 (6-8); { } Level 5 (9-12)

**Guidelines:** Art must be submitted with a completed application form. Entries submitted without an application will be rejected. Applications should be typed or printed and attached to the back of the entry. Read and reread the theme, rules and consideration thoroughly.

Entries must be original artwork, digitized manipulated art is not accepted. All entries must be mounted on tag or poster board. Minimum size 8 1/2 x 11.

**Media:** Tag, Poster board, Pen, Pencil, Markers, Crayon, Collage materials, Tempera, Watercolor, Charcoal, Clothe etc.

**Considerations:**

- 1) Teachers, students should consider subject matter in relation to the theme, creativity, and originality in making selections for entries.
- 2) Entry should have Theme included on the entry.

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org)  
Teachers name and school must be included on application

**Judging:** The art will be judged by an impartial panel of judges.

**Display:** After the MLK Celebration, student artwork will be displayed at selected City/County Libraries during the month of February.

**Awards:** **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place award** will be given at each level, Certificates will be given to all applicants, regardless of their placement.

**Returns:** Art entries will be returned upon request after the end of February 2026.

**Mail Entries to:** Attn: Edith C. Bush - 1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street -West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**Art Entries will be displayed at the MLK Candlelight Service and at the Summit Blvd. Library.**

# 2026 Essay Competition \_\_\_\_\_ Guidelines

## THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”

### THE ESSAY COMPETITION IS THEME RELATED.

**Deadline:** Friday January 9, 2026

**Qualifying levels:**  **Level 1** (k-1) 100 - 150 words  **Level 2** (2-3) 150 - 300 words  
 **Level 3** (4-5) 300- 450 words  **Level 4** (6-8) 450 - 600 words  
 **Level 5** (9-12) 600 - 800 words

**Guidelines:**

- a.** Essays must be submitted with a completed application form. Entries submitted without an application will be rejected. Applications should be typed or printed and attached to the essay.
- b.** Essays must be original and not previously published. Essays may not be used to participate in the oratorical competition.
- c.** Essays should be well organized, should state the theme, use literary techniques, provide supported facts for arguments, be creative adhere to word count and draw a conclusion.
- d.** Essays should use descriptive language, interesting ideas, good grammar and spelling.
- e.** Essays should be typed or neatly printed; name/grade/school should appear on all pages of the essay. Illegible entries will not be judged.

**Considerations:** Teachers should consider guidelines for writing a Standard Base Essay.  
(5 Paragraph Model – age appropriate)

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org)

**Judging:** The essays will be judged by an impartial panel of judges. Winning applicants will be notified upon completion of the judging. Awards will be presented at the **Annual MLKCC-WPB, Breakfast, Monday, January 19, 2026.**

**Awards:** **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards** will be given at each level. Certificates will be given to all entrants, regardless of their placement.

**Return of Essays:** Applicants should make a copy of their essay before submitting it for judging. All essays become the property of MLKCC-WPB and may be returned upon request.

**Mail to:** MLKCC-WPB - Attn: Edith C. Bush – 1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street – West Palm Beach, FL 33401

# 2026 Oratorical Competition \_\_\_\_\_ Guidelines

## THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”

### THE ORATORICAL COMPETITION IS THEME RELATED.

**Deadline:** Friday, January 9, 2026

**Qualifying levels :** { } **Level 1** (k-1) { } **Level 2** (2-3) { } **Level 3** (4-5) { } **Level 4** (6-7)  
Time Restrictions: 1-2 minutes 2-3 minutes 3-5 minutes 3-6 minutes  
{ } **Level 5** (8-9) { } **Level 6** (10-12)  
6-7 minutes 7-9 minutes

**Guidelines:** Applicant must submit four (4) copies of oratorical speech with a completed application form. Entries submitted without applications will be rejected. Applications should be typed or printed and attached to the speech. Applicant not in compliance with the time restrictions will be penalized. All speeches must be memorized, positive in nature, and theme related. Any help from judges will result in a reduction of the points. No props may be utilized during the presentation of the speech. The criteria for scoring can be found on pg.5.

**Applicants must be onsite no later than 2:30 pm.**

**Considerations:** Students should consider subject matter in relation to the theme, creativity, and originality in making selections for entries.

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org)

**Competition Location:** Orthodox Zion Primitive Baptist Church 2900 N. Australian Avenue  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407

**Judging:** The speeches will be judged by an impartial panel of judges. Winning entrants will be notified upon completion of the judging.

**Awards:** **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place** award will be given at each level. Certificates will be given to all applicants, regardless of their placement.

**Return of Speeches:** Applicants should make a copy of their speech before submitting it for judging. All speeches become the property of MLKCC-WPB.

**Mail to:** MLKCC-WPB - Attn: Geraldine Cyrus - 1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street - West Palm Beach, FL 33401

# 2026 Oratorical Judging Criteria Guidelines

**THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”**

## **Judging Criteria for the Oratorical Competition**

### **1. Visual Delivery**

Eye contact through eye sweep and expression

### **2. Formal posture**

Effective stance, showing no nervous mannerisms, swaying, shifting

### **3. Movement**

Effective use of body movement to show visual breaks, reinforce message

### **4. Gesture**

Effective appeal of hand motions to create a visual impact

### **5. Introduction**

Effective “Attention Getter” to gain interest and establish topic

### **6. Theme**

Creative development of the chosen theme reflecting careful analysis of subject

### **7. Motivational Appeal**

Ability of the speaker to “Reach out” Thereby creating empathy

### **8. Language**

Creative phrasing showing effective vocabulary, transitions, and style

### **9. Conclusion**

Effective ending to summarize overall message and leave a memorable impact

### **10. Technical Application**

Speaker’s Effective rate, volume, and articulation

### **11. Vocal Appeal**

Speaker’s sincerity and generation of enthusiasm

### **12. Overall Effectiveness**

### **13. Memorization**

**\*All speeches must be memorized, positive in nature and reflect the theme of the current year. No props may be utilized during the presentation of the speeches.**

# 2026 Performing Arts Competition Guidelines

## THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”

### THE PERFORMANCE ARTS COMPETITION IS THEME RELATED

**Deadline:** Friday, January 9, 2026

**Qualifying levels:** Levels:  **Level 1** (k-1);  **Level 2** (2-3);  **Level 3** (4-5);  
 **Level 4** (6-8);  **Level 5** (9-12)

**Time Restrictions:** **K-1** (1-2 minutes); **2-3** (2-3 minutes); **4-5** (3-4 minutes);  
**6-8** (4-5 minutes); **9-12** (5-6 minutes)

**Performance Division:** Vocal Rap Monologues Dance Instrumental Theatre

**Guidelines:** Students competing in the performing arts competition must submit a completed application that is either typed or printed. Applicants may only compete in one performance category and one act. Point deductions will occur for those not complying with the time restrictions. Vocalist/rappers are to perform with an instrumental track, accompanist, or a cappella. *Singing with a recorded artist is prohibited.* Applicants must agree to have great behavior at all times and comply to concert etiquette protocol. Staff of large groups of performers (singers, dancers, instrumentalist, etc.) will be contacted and asked to sit in the designated area with their performers. However, under no circumstances, is visual coaching allowed. If props are used, the contestant must provide and remove them. Excessive scenery and special and elaborate, production lighting are not appropriate for the event.

**Audition and Orientation:** In order to compete in this competition, a mandatory audition and orientation are required for all applicants.

**Evaluation:** An impartial group of judges with musical backgrounds will grade contestants on a scale of 5 to 1, with 5 being superior and 1 being poor. The scoring will be in the areas of appropriateness of selection, preparation, stage presence, originality, and time limit.

**Awards:** **1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners** in each qualifying level, will be the recipient of 1 trophy and certificate. For example, if a group of 10 wins, 1 trophy will be presented to the group.

**Mail to:** MLKCC-WPB - Attn: Iona Gamble - 1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street - West Palm Beach, FL 3340

# **2026 Creative Photography Competition Guidelines**

## **THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”**

The Photography Competition is category related. Applicants must choose from the following Categories:

**Category:** **Equality Human Rights, Civil Rights, Activism, Culture & Heritage**

**Deadline:** **Friday, January 9, 2026**

**Qualifying Levels:** { } **Level 1** (4-5 Grades) – { } **Level 2** (6-8 Grades) – { } **Level 3** (9-12 Guidelines)

- Photographs must be submitted with a completed application form. Entries submitted without an application will be rejected. Applications should be typed or printed legible and attached on the back of the entry.
- A maximum of two photographs per applicant will be considered for judging.
- Photographs must be prints. Discs, slides and digitized manipulated photos will not be accepted.
- Black and white, color and sepia tone photographs are accepted.
- Entries must be the original work of the entrant and bonded to a mat board.

**Photo Description:** A title and brief description should accompany each photo, (maximum 300 words). This description should describe the setting, category chosen, and how the photo relates to the category chosen

**Considerations:** 1) Students should consider subject matter in relation to the theme, creativity and originality in making selection for entries.  
2) Applicants should be sensitive to the privacy of human subjects and may need to obtain the permission of subject before photographing them.

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org).

**Judging:** Photographs will be judged by an impartial panel of judges. Presentation of winning entries will be made at the **Annual MLK Breakfast** at the Palm Beach County Convention Center 650 Okeechobee Blvd, West Palm Beach, Fl. **January 19, 2026**

**Display:** Student Photographs will be displayed at selected city/county libraries during the month of February 2026.

**Entries:** All entries become the property of MLKCC-WPB and may be returned upon request.

**Mail to:** MLKCC-WPB - Attn. Edith Bush 1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

# 2026 Poetry Contest \_\_\_\_\_ Guidelines

## THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”

### THE POETRY COMPETITION IS THEME RELATED

**Deadline:** Friday, January 9, 2026

**Qualifying levels:** { } **Level 1** (4-5) – { } **Level 2** (6-8) – { } **Level 3** (9-12)

#### **Submission Criteria :**

- All entries must be the original work of the student
- Poem must be no longer than 40 lines in length
- All entries must be reflective of the theme
- No entries will be accepted that contain profanity, language that is discriminatory (based on race, religion, creed, nationality, or gender)
- The students name should be placed on the application only and should not appear on any place on the poem itself
- All entries must be typed
- Plagiarism is considered fraud; any contestant found committing or submitting a poem they did not write themselves will be disqualified
- The judges may disqualify any entry at any time for failing to comply with contest rules

**Awards:** Will be awarded to the **first, second, and third place winners**; all participants will receive a certificate of participation rights: All rights remain the soul property of the author/poet; however, the MLKCCC does reserve the right to publish the winning entries on its website, in its newsletter, other affiliated publications.

**Judges:** A panel of judges will review all entries - work will be judged based on creativity and originality. Honorary Judge(s): In the event of a tie will broke the tie.

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org)

**Mail to:** MLKCC-WPB - Attn: Edith C. Bush  
1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street - West Palm Beach, FL 33401



## **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COORDINATING COMMITTEE-WPB**

### ***2026 Achiever Scholarship*** ***Guidelines***

#### **THEME: “Building Bridges, Not Walls”**

**Qualifying Level:** **Grade 12** (Graduating Senior)

**Guidelines:** Students must compete and win **1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place** in at least one of the MLKCC-WPB events.

Student must complete a scholarship application before receiving their competition placement notification.

Student must submit a wallet size photo.

**Criteria:** Minimum 2.5 GPA

**Deadline:** Contact Edith C. Bush for details

**Mail to:** MLKCC Scholarship

Attention: **Edith C. Bush**, Founder/Executive Director  
1444 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

**Questions:** Questions regarding the application or scholarship guidelines should be emailed to [edithcbush@gmail.com](mailto:edithcbush@gmail.com) or call 561.236.8549

**Application:** Copy or download as needed from website: [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org)

**Announcement:** All scholarship recipients will be notified via application contact information.

# MARTIN LUTHER KING JR COORDINATING COMMITTEE-WPB

**THEME: Building Bridges, Not Walls**  
**2026 Achiever Scholarship Application**  
**PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT INFORMATION IN BLACK OR BLUE INK**

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Current High School / Home School** \_\_\_\_\_

**GPA** \_\_\_\_\_ **Graduation Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell#** \_\_\_\_\_ **DOB** \_\_\_\_\_

### **PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Father's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### **COLLEGE INFORMATION**

College(s) you plan to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of College credits already earned? \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Minor \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Scholarship(s)/Grant(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation of entries received will be sent, within one week of receipt, to the above email address. To ensure proper delivery, please add the MLKCC-WPB website - [www.mlkccpbc.org](http://www.mlkccpbc.org) to your domain safe website list.

Disclosures: I hereby certify that the information in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts that would jeopardize inclusion of this application.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/GuardianSignature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_