



**Calling all 6th-12th grade students!**

**The 2026 DR. CLYDE D. CARNEGIE  
LANSING JUNETEENTH  
ESSAY COMPETITION & SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**COMPETITION DATES: February 28<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



## **ESSAY CATEGORIES & AWARDS**

### **CATEGORY I,II, III: Grades 6th to 10th**

<b>CATEGORY I</b>	<b>CATEGORY II</b>	<b>CATEGORY III</b>
<b>Grade 6th Essay Contest</b>  <b>Award Values:</b> <b>1st Place - \$75 (value)</b> <b>2nd Place - \$50 (value)</b>	<b>Grades, 7th &amp; 8th Essay Contest</b>  <b>Award Values:</b> <b>1st Place - \$100 (value)</b> <b>2nd Place - \$75 (value)</b>	<b>Grades 9th &amp; 10th Essay Contest</b>  <b>Award Values:</b> <b>1st Place - \$200 (value)</b> <b>2nd Place - \$150 (value)</b>

## **ESSAY TOPICS / CRITERIA**

### **CATEGORY I – Essay Contest for Grade 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Write your 300 –to-400-word essay on the following:**

1. What is Juneteenth?
2. What family member or person did you ask about Juneteenth and how was the holiday explained?
3. How do you plan on celebrating Juneteenth?

### **CATEGORY II - Essay Contest for Grades 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Write your 400-to-500-word essay on the following:**

1. What is Juneteenth?
2. Why do we celebrate this event?
3. Explain the following statement: The 4th of July freed the land; Juneteenth freed the people!

### **CATEGORY III – Essay Contest for Grades 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Topic – Write your 500-to-600-word essay on the following:**

1. What is Juneteenth?
2. Why is celebrating Juneteenth historically significant?
3. Why is Juneteenth considered the 4th of July for African Americans?
4. What connections can be drawn between Juneteenth and modern-day social justice movements in the United States?

## Essay Writing Requirements.

- Essays must be the student's original work. Plagiarism will not be accepted.
- Juneteenth values the importance of creativity and the value of having one's own thoughts put to paper and for that reason **the use of AI (artificial intelligence) is not acceptable in essay writing**. The use of AI makes the knowledge of a student ineffective, enforces risk of plagiarism, and disregards the invaluable role of human originality and ethics in academic writing. You will be asked to sign a statement before submitting your essay that you have not used AI in writing your essay. We do use tools to help evaluate whether the use of AI has been used. If our results show this to be the case, your essay will be disqualified from the competition.
- Essay must be complete and formatted per the student application checklist (see application).
  - Typed in 12 pt. or 14 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font
  - Double spaced with a bibliography listing all references used.
  - Word count cannot be less than or exceed category range.
  - Submitted on Word or as PDF document only.
- Essay must have a title and stay on the topic. Essays will be judged on the correct use of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and originality.
- Maps, drawings, pictures, and graphics should not be included.

(This program is not sponsored by the Capital Area District Library. Library staff cannot assist with contest detail questions.)

## ENTRY SUBMISSIONS & AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Entries received after April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, will not be eligible and will not be returned.**
- Essay submissions can be submitted to the Juneteenth website ([www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org](http://www.lansingjuneteenthcelebration.org)) from **February 28<sup>th</sup> – April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Please check website for drop off locations for hard copies.
- The Juneteenth Essay Award program will be held on **June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, location to be announced, Time 6:00 PM.**
- **Any student having previously won an award is ineligible for entry into the same category,** however, the student is eligible if moving to a new category. Ex: From Category I to Category II or Category III to Category IV.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / CONTACTS

**For more information, please contact [www.LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org](http://www.LansingJuneteenthCelebration.org).** To verify receipt of application please go to More tab on Juneteenth website and Click on Contact to send message. Receipt verification must be done within ten (10) days of submission if no e-mail verification from Juneteenth is received.