



The Arlington Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee presents:

ADVANCING THE DREAM

“Leaning Forward”

The **2027 MLK ESSAY CONTEST** is open to high school “seniors” attending school in Arlington or residing within Arlington city limits.

First Place - \$1,000 Award

Second Place - \$750 Award

Third Place - \$500 Award

Essay Contest Rules

1. Essays must be submitted by **5pm Friday, Nov 13, 2026**.
2. One original, typed, double-spaced essay per student, not exceeding 1,500 words.
Sources must be cited using AP in-text citations
3. Each submission must include a signed entry form
4. Essay must be the student's original work. Use of AI tools are prohibited
5. Drawing from speeches and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explain how his dream remains relevant today. Within your essay address the following:
 - **Reflect** - What does Advancing the Dream: Leaning Forward mean to you, and how does it connect to Dr. King's legacy?
 - **Envision** - What future do you hope to help create, and what challenge or opportunity deserves your generation's attention?
 - **Act** - What specific role will you play in Advancing the Dream and how can your actions encourage positive change?
6. Email submissions in PDF format to arlingtonmlkessay@gmail.com. Late entries will not be accepted
7. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
8. For questions/more information, please email arlingtonmlkessay.com.

Winners will be notified in December and formally recognized as part of the 2027 Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.

For more details: www.ArlingtonMLK.com

ENTRY FORM

Name _____ Age _____ Grade _____
School _____ Teacher _____
Home Address _____ Zip Code _____
Email Address _____ Phone _____

By submitting an essay to the contest, you acknowledge and agree that your student's photograph, video footage, and/or work may be used for purposes related to the MLK Advancing the Dream Four-Day Celebration, including but not limited to programs, work displays, and webpages. Agreement to these terms is a condition of submitting an essay to the contest.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____