

**James Rickards High School**  
**Black History Month Theme:**  
**Essay Contest Rubric**  
**By Dr. Thompson**

- **Submission Date:** 2/13/2023 Monday, No Exceptions!!!!
- **Email submissions to:** thompsona2@leonschools.net
- 1 winner from each grade level:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade (In your opinion, is education as valued as it used to be in the Black community, why or why not?)
  - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade (In your opinion, what is the single most important issue facing Black people in America and why?)
  - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade (Why do you think it is important to study Black history?)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> grade (In your opinion, does the Black community need help from other ethnicities to achieve societal goals like ending racism, closing the wealth gap, and ending mass incarceration? Why or why not?)

ELA.9-12.C.1 – B.E.S.T. communication through writing

ELA.9-12.C.3 – B.E.S.T. following conventions

ELA.9-12.C.1 – B.E.S.T. Researching

	<b>Excellent 4 Points</b>	<b>Proficient 3 Points</b>	<b>Emergent 2 Points</b>	<b>Incompetent 1 Point</b>
<b>Body/Clearness</b>	The arrangement of examples and <i>commentary enhances the writer's central argument</i> . Ideas and arguments progress logically and effectively and <i>clearly connect to the main thesis</i> . <b>All parts of the essay contribute to a single overall argument.</b>	The organization of commentary and examples help to convey the writer's central argument. Most parts of the essay contribute to a single argument, but there may be some extraneous details or commentary.	The organization of commentary and examples cloud the writer's central argument; some rearrangement would help. There are several areas of the essay that do not relate to the main insight. There may be some areas that are contradictory.	The organization is ineffective in revealing a central argument. Paragraphs do not clearly connect to one another. The essay is often contradictory without intending to be.

<b>Content/Understanding</b>	<p><i>Essay contains exceptional insights and complex ideas. The writer demonstrates a deep, fresh understanding of the subject.</i></p> <p>Provides relevant, substantial, concrete and genuine examples that clearly support the central argument.</p>	<p>Essay contains some insights. The writer demonstrates an adequate understanding of the subject, but some ideas could have been explored further.</p> <p>Provides reasonable and predictable examples that develop the central argument.</p>	<p>Main argument of the essay is simplistic. The paper may be contradictory or too broad, rather than making a simple point.</p> <p>Some examples are useful but others may not illustrate the main point. Examples need further development.</p>	<p>Main argument of the essay is limited or unclear.</p> <p>Provides few or irrelevant examples to support an undeveloped or unclear central argument.</p>
<b>Power/Style</b>	<p>Shows exceptional awareness of audience/readers, no use of slang, but uses a variety of vocabulary related to topic, sophisticated word choice, and smooth transitions.</p>	<p>Shows awareness of Audience/readers, control of voice, some variety in sentence structure and word choice with some smooth transitions</p>	<p>Shows inconsistent awareness of audience/readers, simplistic word choice, little variety of sentence structure, and limited use of transitions</p>	<p>Shows limited awareness of audience/readers, minimal or incorrect word choice, little or no variety of sentence structure, and few or no transitions.</p>
<b>Method/Grammar</b>	<p>Free from errors in grammar, usage, and follows the conventions of written English.</p>	<p>May have a few errors in grammar, usage, or conventions of written English; these errors do not cause confusion.</p>	<p>May have errors in grammar, usage, or conventions of written English; these errors may lead to some confusion.</p>	<p>May have a variety of repeated errors in sentence structure, grammar, usage, and the conventions of written English; these errors often cause confusion.</p>

### Criteria

Must have:

- Essay format – 5 paragraphs or more

- Font 12 Times New Roman, Double Spaced
- 200-350 word MAXIMUM
- Not having the criteria above may disqualify you from the contest