

GADSDEN COUNTY

black history month

Celebrating
African Americans & Labor

**Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future” African Americans and Labor
Gadsden County Commissioners and School Board Inaugural Black History Month Art Contest
Official Rules and Guidelines : Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12**

The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County School Board Inaugural Black History Month “Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future African Americans and Labor” Essay contest is open to all 4th–12th grade students who reside in Gadsden County. Three winners will be selected and awarded \$500.

ELIGIBILITY: Each contestant must be a legal resident of Gadsden County and attend any Florida school in grades 4th–12th (including public, charter, private, home, or virtual). Each student may enter only one essay written in English.

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND LABOR

Essay: Student must write about the contribution and impact African American Labor has made toward the growth and development of Gadsden County and the State of Florida.

Entry: Should reflect the history of African American labor in Gadsden County.

Entry Deadline: Entries must be mailed or personally delivered to the Gadsden County Public Information Office, 9-B East Jefferson Street, Quincy, FL 32351, or emailed to blackhistoryessay@gadsdencountyfl.gov. The email subject line should read “African Americans and Labor AAHM Essay 2025 Students Last Name, First Name.” All submissions are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, February 17, 2025. Entries submitted electronically will receive email confirmation. Contestants are responsible for all shipping costs.

Submission:

- Word Processing Software: Microsoft Word or Google Docs (doc or .docx) only
- Font Type: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12.
- Spaced (double): 2.0

Information included on Cover Page:

- Student’s Name
- Title of essay
- School Attends
- Grade level
- Word Count
- Telephone Number

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Entry Form: The student must provide all required information requested on the entry form, which must be legible. The student and parent/legal guardian are required to read and understand these rules in order to submit the entry form in its entirety. The entry form includes a release and certification that a parent or guardian must sign.

Criteria: Each student must submit a Modern Language Association (MLA) formatted essay. Organize and structure the essay well, demonstrating command of grammar, spelling and mechanics. Use a highly engaging and personal style and approach the topic from a unique perspective. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disqualification.

Students compete in one of three grouped categories: Grades 4th-5th ; 6th-8th; and 9th -12th.

Judging is based on the student's ability to:

1. Clearly and concisely, demonstrate understanding of the topic.
2. Express creativity and originality of thought pertaining to the topic, and mastery of grammar, spelling and style.

ELEMENTARY (grades 4th -5th) school students must draft essays with a word count of 100 to 250 words.

MIDDLE (grades 6th -8th), a word count of 300 to 550 words.

HIGH (grades 9th -12th) school students must draft essays with a word count of 600 to 850 words.

Essays shorter or longer than the stated lengths will be disqualified. The word count does not include the cover page, heading, and works cited. No imagery is permitted.

JUDGING:

Students' work will be assessed in five performance areas:

1. Idea – Controlling ideas; supporting ideas; awareness of purpose; sense of completion
2. Depth of Content – Use of details
3. Organization – Introduction/body/conclusion; sequence of ideas; grouping of ideas; effective transitions
4. Style – Sentence variety; topic vocabulary use
5. Conventions – Sentence formation; subject-verb agreement; standard word forms; punctuation, spelling, and capitalization

Winners and Prizes: Winners will be notified on Friday, February 21, 2025. Three winners will be awarded \$500, one for each grade group.

For more information, visit gadsdencountyfl.gov or contact the County Public Information Office at 850.875.8671



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Labeling Requirements: Essays must include the student's name, home address, telephone number, school the student attends, grade level, title of the essay, and a word count. Essays must be no longer than the allotted amount for your grade group, written in English, and should be typed

Transfer of Rights: Each applicant and his/her parent or guardian must agree to give all rights to the submitted artwork, including copyright, to the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education. This transfer of rights will allow the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education, at a minimum, to reproduce, distribute, and display your artwork. The winner's submission will be duplicated in various mediums and used to promote Black History Month throughout the County. This means that when you submit your artwork to participate in this contest, your artwork will become the property of the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education and will not be returned.

Public Disclosure: The Florida Public Records Act, located in Chapter 120, Florida Statutes, generally requires that all activities, including this contest, are open to the public. Therefore, all aspects of your involvement in this contest, including your artwork, will be subject to public disclosure.

Once the winners are announced, the decision is final.

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“Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future” African Americans and Labor
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Entry Form and Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver Form
(Grades 4-5, 6-8, 9-12)

STUDENT NAME: _____

TITLE OF ENTRY: _____

GRADE: _____ AGE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN CELL PHONE NUMBER: _____

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

COUNTY: _____

SCHOOL MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: _____

ART CONTEST CHECKLIST

WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

TYPED

SIGNED PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN WAIVER

THE CORRECT NUMBER OF WORDS FOR GRADE LEVEL

COMPLETED, LEGIBLE ENTRY FORM

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE GADSDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY 5 P.M. ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025

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Gadsden County Commissioners and School Board Inaugural Black History Month Art Contest
Parent/Legal Guardian Waiver**

RELEASE STATEMENT:

As a parent or guardian, I acknowledge that my child has written the attached essay. Should he or she win the essay contest, I agree to allow the essay to be distributed publicly. I also understand that if it is discovered my child has plagiarized or that the thoughts expressed are not his or her own, the essay will be subject to disqualification.

I, _____
(Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian), hereby certify the following:

1. I am the parent/legal guardian of _____
(Print Name of Student, hereafter referred to as “my child”).
2. My child is currently enrolled in a Florida elementary school (grades K-3), including public, charter, private, home, or virtual school, and is a legal resident of Gadsden County, Florida.
3. I give permission for my child to enter his/her essay in the Gadsden County Commissioners and School Board Inaugural 2025 Black History Month Essay Contest.
4. I understand that all rights to the submitted essay, including copyright, will be owned by the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education, and not by me or my child. This transfer of rights allows them to reproduce, distribute, and display the essay as deemed appropriate.
5. I grant the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education permission to use my child’s name, photograph, voice, video image, biographical information, and essay for promotional purposes in print, radio, television, and online promotion, without compensation or prior notice.
6. I agree to release and hold harmless the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education, including their employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising/promotional agencies, from any and all damages, injuries, claims, causes of action, or losses of any kind arising from my child’s participation in this contest, including intellectual property rights infringement. The Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Gadsden County Board of Education and their employees, officers, affiliates, agents, and advertising/promotional agencies assume no responsibility or liability for any damages, injuries, claims, causes of action, or losses related to this contest.
7. I have read and understand the official rules of the contest, and I certify that my child has followed these rules and is eligible to participate.

PARENT/ LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE