

THE 34th ANNUAL DETROIT BRANCH NAACP ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

Grades 3-5



The NAACP is an organization that works to ensure that citizens of the United States keep civil rights. Civil rights and social justice are about individuals having the right to receive equal and fair treatment.

There was a Civil Rights Movement in the United States that lasted many years (1948-1968). The Civil Rights Movement was needed because African Americans throughout much of the South were denied the right to vote, were not allowed to enter certain public facilities, were subjected to insults and violence, and could not expect justice from the courts. In the North, Black Americans also faced discrimination in housing, employment, education, and many other areas.

During those years, the NAACP supported the Supreme Court ruling of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954), which outlawed segregation in public schools. They not only helped to integrate the US Armed Forces (1948), but also helped the passage of the *Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1964, and 1968*, as well as the *Voting Rights Act of 1965*.

SAMPLES THEME:

Achieving civil rights was slow, painful, and often times violent, yet many men, women and children persevered through those difficult times. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks are two of the most famous Americans who worked for civil rights and social justice during that time. However, there were many others like them. The following are names of people who made a difference in the fight for equality:

- W.E.B. Du Bois
- Charles Hamilton Houston
- Oscar Micheaux
- Harry T. and Harriette Moore
- Medgar Evers
- Myrlie Evers-Williams
- Paul Robeson
- Fannie Lou Hamer
- Daisy Elliot
- Mayor Coleman A. Young
- J.L. Chestnut Jr.
- James Weldon Johnson & Walter White
- Mary White Ovington
- Roy Wilkins & Clarence Mitchell
- Carter G. Woodson
- Thurgood Marshall
- Malcolm X
- Daisy Bates
- Erma Henderson
- Harry Belafonte

Research one of the names above, or another person who has worked to maintain civil rights in your community or America. What did they do? How were their achievements important to civil rights and the fight for fair and equal treatment in America? Entries should not be book reports. Student entries should make a personal connection to whom they have chosen to write or create an art entry about.

ESSAY ENTRIES:

Write a one or two-page essay, typewritten or neatly handwritten on 8 x 11 paper.

To successfully communicate your knowledge and ideas, use the rubrics that have been provided.

ART ENTRIES:

Create an art entry that expresses the theme and shows the aesthetic qualities of the materials in which you select. Two-dimensional works of art may be submitted. Adhere to the *Art Guidelines* that have been provided.