

THE 34th ANNUAL DETROIT BRANCH NAACP ART AND ESSAY CONTEST

Grades 6-12

The NAACP is a civil rights organization that works to ensure political, educational, social, and economic equality for minority group citizens of the United States.

During the Civil Rights Movement (1948-1968), African Americans throughout much of the South were denied the right to vote, were barred from 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.

The implementation of civil rights was slow, painful, and often times violent, yet many men, women and children persevered through these difficult times. The NAACP advocated for 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*. Although issues may have changed since then, civil rights and social justice issues remain relevant in our world today.

THEME:

Maintaining and protecting civil rights is slow, painful, and often times violent. Yet, the NAACP is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities that plague people of color in the United States. These disparities are issues (problems) involving education, health care, law enforcement, and racial injustice.

Choose a civil rights issue—a problem in the world today. Explain what makes the issue a problem and tell how the problem can possibly be fixed. **Entries should make a personal connection to the topic.**

ESSAY ENTRIES:

Write a one-two-page essay, typewritten on 8 x 11 paper. **High school essay entries must be two pages.**

To successfully communicate your knowledge and ideas effectively and efficiently, 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.