

Latah County
Human Rights Task Force
presents the

The Promise of Democracy

Martin Luther King, Jr. Art and Essay Contest

The theme this year is **The Promise of Democracy**. In his "I Have a Dream" speech, King said, "**Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.**" His statement is as timely now as it was in 1963. Democracy is based on holding free and fair elections, as well as protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Lower Elementary prompts (Grades 1-3):

Essay: Democracy is a form of government where people have a say in how their country is run. Write about a time in which you felt that you had a chance to change the rules for yourself or the group that you're a part of. Think about your class, recess, or a rule at home.

Art: Draw a picture of a time when you spoke up to change a rule to make things better.

Upper Elementary prompts (Grades 4-5):

Essay: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about making real the promise of democracy. Write about an event in which people worked for this goal by making a change for the better in their community, group, club, or school.

Art: Develop a list of key words related to the practice of democracy. (This can be done with the whole class.). Choose one and create an artwork to illustrate it.

Middle School prompts (Grades 6-8):

Essay: What did Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. think would help make real the promise of democracy in 1963? What do you think would help overcome challenges to democracy today?

Art: Create an artwork illustrating something that you consider important or valuable about living in a democracy.

High School prompts (Grades 9-12):

Essay: What were some barriers to the promise of democracy in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s time? What are some threats to democracy today? How can these obstacles best be dealt with?

Art: Create an artwork that illustrates people overcoming a threat to making real the promise of democracy today.

Contest entries are due January 30th. Teachers and individual students can submit entries anytime up to this date. Email Walter Hesford (hesford@uidaho.edu) to have entries picked up, or mail them to the Latah County Human Rights Task Force, P.O. Box 8613, Moscow, ID 83843. Contest winners will be honored in a ceremony on February 8th and receive a \$25 gift certificate from BookPeople of Moscow. On each submission, please include the student's name, and the name, school, and email of the teacher or adult submitting the entry.