The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations

2014 Essay Writing Competition

Every student has immeasurable, untapped reserves of competence and creativity. Given the opportunity, a student can always find a way to better appreciate how to establish a voice in writing to effectively communicate creative thoughts and ideas. Authentic writing then becomes not just an exercise but has a specific purpose and addresses a specific audience.

AJAA is inviting graduating students to participate in the writing process to establish winner(s) in the Essay Competition. This forum will encourage and allow students to access those immeasurable reserves and express them in a meaningful way. A monetary award will be given to the first and second-place winners of this competition.

To establish clear expectations and guidelines, the organization finds it necessary to remind entrants that the writing process is a recursive act of planning, preparation, drafting, revision and editing. Evaluations will be based on content, length of essay, spelling accuracy and grammar.

Criteria
- Completion of nomination form
- Essays should be between 1000-1500 words
- Lines should be double-spaced and word-processed.
- All thoughts expressed should be those of the author
- This is a persuasive essay (your opinions only) and should not be researched
- Plagiarism will result in disqualification
- Essays will be assessed for proper sentence structure, paragraph structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- Essays may be submitted by e-mail or regular mail postmarked no later than June 7, 2014

Eligibility
- Of Jamaican descent
- Ontario Secondary School Graduate in 2014

Please choose one of the following topics

1. How has your Jamaican heritage and culture influenced your identity?
2. Some argue that black dominance in major sports today is due to physical prowess while others have argued that it is due to the significance of motivation, intellect, and discipline. Discuss with reference to which of these you believe and give examples to support your argument
3. How do you view the role of parents in their child's education?
4. How do you see the portrayal of people of Caribbean and African descent in the media? Discuss using relevant examples

Mailing Address:
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WWW.ajaacanada.com 416-498-9934
The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto), AJAA, is an umbrella organization representing past student associations affiliated with educational institutions in Jamaica. The Alliance’s mandate is to provide guidance and financial assistance to students from the Jamaican educational system in integrating them into the Canadian educational system, and to provide support to the member Jamaican Alumni Associations in Toronto.

The Graduates’ Programme and Reception

AJAA hosts an annual Graduates’ Reception to recognize the achievements of graduating high school students. This year, we wish to solicit the assistance of guidance counsellors in your secondary school system / area in identifying and reaching graduating students of Jamaican descent.

Following are the components of the programme:

1. The Reception – open to all graduating students of Jamaican descent (even if they do not wish to apply for the bursary or enter the essay competition). Students are encouraged to invite their friends, teachers and family members to attend the Graduates’ Reception. The Graduates’ Awards Ceremony and reception will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2014, at 200 PM. The event will be held at the Jamaican Canadian Centre, 995 Arrow Road. All Graduates will be honoured through the presentation of certificates and will be invited to network with professionals in the community. Complimentary refreshments will be provided by AJAA and its community partners.

2. The Bursary – open to all graduating Ontario High School students of Jamaican descent who intend to pursue post secondary

This bursary aims to assist graduating high school students in their pursuit of post-secondary education. All participants are required to attend the Reception on June 22, 2014

Bursary Criteria:

- be of Jamaican descent
- maintain a minimum “B” average in the last 2 years of high school
- a graduate of an Ontario secondary school in 2014
- plan to pursue post-secondary education on a full-time basis
- be nominated by their school
- provide evidence of community service or involvement
- provide proof of acceptance to a community college or university

The number and value of the bursaries are dependent on available funding.

3. The Essay Writing competition – open to all graduating students of Jamaican descent (whether they apply for the bursary or not)

Students are also being invited to participate in an Essay Writing competition. The deadline for this is June 2, 2014.

Please see the Essay criteria at WWW.ajaacanada.com The Essay competition is voluntary and comes with a monetary award to the first and second-place winners.
All participants must attend the Reception on June 23, 2014

The guidance counselors will be asked to authorize the nomination forms and promote this program to all interested graduating high school students who fit the criteria. Those interested in competing for the awards are encouraged to complete the application process and deliver or mail all packages by June 7, 2014 to the attention of:

The AJAA
55 Brower Court
Brampton ON
L6Z 4S6

President
The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto)