The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations

2015 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.

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,
• Content and punctuation.
• Essays may be submitted by e-mail or regular mail postmarked no later than June 5, 2015

Eligibility

• Of Jamaican descent
• Ontario Secondary School Graduate in 2015

Please choose one of the following topics

1. The Canadian Government recently announced that its military operations would be extended until April 2016. Do you agree with their decision and do you perceive any risks with this decision?

2. Each year the country of Canada welcomes approximately 250,000 immigrants. Do you think Canada is still a viable option for immigrants? What are some of the challenges which an immigrant faces?

3. Should young black Canadians be interested in seeking political office. Explain the reason for your position.

4. 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

Mailing Address:
Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto)
C/o 55 Brower Court, Brampton, ON, L6Z 4S6
WWW.ajaacanada.com  416-498-9934

"Helping Dreams Come True"
# Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Association
## 2015 Bursary Nomination Form

### For completion by applicant:

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<th>Name:</th>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>Grade:</th>
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<th>Address:</th>
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<th>Telephone:</th>
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<th>Name of Parent/s or Guardian/s</th>
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<th>Address:</th>
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**How many children are presently being supported by your parent/s or guardian/s?**

**Do you personally have any dependents? Please provide details**

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<th>Signature:</th>
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### For completion by school official (Principal, Vice Principal or Guidance Counsellor):

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<th>Name of High School:</th>
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<th>Address:</th>
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**This student is a potential graduate for 2013**

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<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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**Confirmed by:**

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<th>Position Title:</th>
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Please ensure that the following documents are submitted with this form by **June 5, 2014**:

- Letters of reference (at least two) to support school’s nomination and community involvement
- Confirmation/copies of other scholastic awards or achievements.
- One page article – ‘Why I deserve this award’.
- Copy of official transcript for the last 2 years
- Letter of acceptance to a college or university

“Helping Dreams Come True”
March 27, 2015

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’ Program and Awards Luncheon

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. **This Bursary aims to assist graduating high school students in their pursuit of post-secondary education.**

   The Bursary – open to all graduating Ontario High School students of Jamaican descent who are accepted into a post-secondary education program.

   All awardees are required to attend the Reception on Sunday, June 28, 2015 at 1:00 PM.

2. **The Graduates Awards Ceremony and Luncheon – open to all graduating students.**

   Students are encouraged to invite their friends, teachers and family members to attend. The cost for the event will be $45. Please note that the awardees will be exempted from paying this cost.

   Awardees will be contacted prior to the reception at which time more specific information will be provided.

   The Awards Ceremony and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, June 28, 2015, at 1:00 PM, at the Woodbridge Convention Center 4000 Steeles Avenue West. Awardees will also be honored with the presentation of certificates and will be invited to network with professionals in the community.

**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 2015
- be nominated by their school
- provide evidence of community service or involvement
- provide proof of acceptance to a community college or university
- bursaries will be disbursed upon proof of registration in a 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 5, 2015.
Please see the Essay criteria at www.ajaacanada.com. The Essay competition is voluntary and comes with a monetary award to the winner/s.

All awardees must attend the Reception on Sunday, June 28, 2015.

The guidance counselors are being asked to authorize the nomination forms and promote this program to all interested graduating high school students who meet the criteria. Those interested in competing for the awards are encouraged to complete the application process and deliver or mail all packages in time to be received by June 5, 2015 to the above noted address.

If further information is required, please call and leave a message at 416-498-9934, or contact Olive Parkins-Smith at 905-450-9987 after 6:30pm Monday – Friday or on weekends after 11:00 AM.

All the application forms and general information about this program can be accessed at www.ajaacanada.com

Yours sincerely,

Wayne Swaby
President
The Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations (Toronto)