



In celebration of Black History Month, the Office of English Language Arts and the Office of Social Studies are co-sponsoring a writing contest for all students in Grades K-12.

A winner will be selected in each of the following grade level bands: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8, and grades 9-12. Prizes for winners are generously provided by The Education Foundation of BCPS.

Student writers are invited to respond to the following prompt:

African American influence in the arts has been critical throughout the ages. Choose an African American public figure in the field of visual arts, performing arts, literature, fashion, film, music, architecture, culinary arts, or other field of artistic expression to spotlight for BCPS. Explain how this public figure has contributed significantly and uniquely to their field and how their work has specifically inspired you and your own future goals.

All submissions must be accompanied by the provided SUBMISSION COVER SHEET. Students may submit ONE ENTRY PER GENRE. Students must include a separate cover sheet for each submission.

- All submissions must be in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and double-spaced.
- All works must have a title.
- Each page must be numbered and include the writer's last name.
- Entries may be in any of the following genres: a personal essay, a letter, a speech, a script, or a poem. Students in primary grades only may also submit a visual representation with a written description.
- Poetry must be no longer than 50 lines.
- Other types of entries must be no longer than two pages.

We encourage participation from all students! All entries may be submitted to a teacher, reading specialist, or department chair by **Friday, February 9th**. The submission includes the cover sheet and student writing. For questions, contact klochary@bcps.org.

Winners will be notified by February 29, 2024. Winning entries will be featured on the BCPS webpage.