



# The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest



**What:** The Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest.

**When:** Contest ends **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.**

**Where:** Winners announced at the **25th Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala** on **Saturday, February 22, 2025** (6pm to 9pm) at the **Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, 2800 S. Potomac Ave, Arlington, VA 22202**

**Who:** All 5th Grade Students currently attending any Virginia Elementary School (or Home School).

## The Winners Receive

**FIRST PRIZE: \$300**

**SECOND PRIZE: \$150**

**THIRD PRIZE: \$75**

- Monetary gifts from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners are announced during the Gala. All finalists will receive two complimentary tickets to attend the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner will receive a large poster-size check with their name, school and winning amount.
- All winners will receive a complimentary family portrait from our professional photographer at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala.
- All will receive a Certificate of Achievement from the Virginia Black History Month Association.
- All monetary awards will be distributed on Saturday, February 22, 2025 during the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala.

Cover Sheet Information  
(Must Accompany Your Essay Submission)

Essay Title:

Name:

Permanent Address:

Home Phone Number:

Contact E-mail Address:

Gender: \_\_\_Male \_\_\_Female

Grade (as of fall of 2024):

School Name & Address (as of fall of 2024):

Parent(s) Contact Information:

## Contest Rules

1. This contest is open to all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students currently attending any Virginia Elementary School (or Home School).
2. Contest ends **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 5:00 pm.**
3. Writing entries should be limited to two pages plus cover sheet.
4. Each entry must be written by the student.
5. The entry must be neatly handwritten on standard ruled note paper.
6. Include the title of your entry on both the first page of the essay and on the cover sheet.
7. **HOW TO ENTER:** The essay should pertain to the following topic:

**Theme:** Next year's Black History Month Theme is **African Americans, and Labor**, which focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

(ASALH, 2024) **Scenario:** You are a reporter for a major news organization. You have been tasked with identifying two African American women (past or present) who were the first within a particular career field and write a news story. (e.g. First Black Woman Astronaut, First Black Woman Doctor) **Question:** What two black women did you choose? What career field did they achieve this title? What challenges did they face with becoming the first black woman? Which of the two women do you believe endured the most challenges along the way and why?

8. **Judging Criteria:** The three winners will be selected by a neutral judging panel and will be rated in three areas: writing skill, story content and originality.
9. The list of panel members is **Ms. Pamela Nephew** (College Professor), **Mr. Larry Marks** (High School Principal) and **Mr. Eugene Williams**, (Author & High School Principal). Participants agree to be bound by these rules and the decision of the judges. All decisions are final. The top three winners will be notified by mail or phone call no later than **Monday, February 17, 2025.**
10. Send the enclosed cover sheet with each entry. Ensure you include the following:
  - Name and title of the entry
  - Student's permanent home address and school address (if applicable)
  - Telephone number(s)

**Note: Scan and Email entries to: [President@vabhma.com](mailto:President@vabhma.com) or mail entries to: The Virginia Black History Month Children's Writing Contest, PO Box 41924, FREDERICKSBURG VA 22404. All entries must be received by 5:00pm on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025.****

11. The writing entry with the highest achievement will receive the first-place award; next highest achievement will receive the second-place award, and the third highest achievement will receive the third-place award.
12. Certificates will be presented during the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Virginia Black History Month Gala **on Saturday, February 22, 2025 (Please arrive by 5:15pm). We would like for the winning contestants to be present at the Gala. In addition, the winners and one of their parents will be given a free complimentary ticket to attend the Gala. (Note: The ticket does not include parking) The cost of adult tickets for additional attendees is adults: \$100.00, Students: \$75 and Children: (under 12 yrs. old) \$50.00 (Note: Children 5 yrs. old and under are free).**