



Institute of Caribbean Studies

National Caribbean American Heritage Month Youth Essay Competition

The Institute of Caribbean Studies announces the fourth Annual, National Caribbean-American Heritage Month Youth Essay Competition. The competition is designed to commemorate the historic passage of a Congressional Resolution declaring June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. The Institute is partnering with area schools and colleges and organizations such as Transforming America Through Interaction ("TATI"), Inc., the Greater Caribbean American Cultural Coalition ("GCAC Coalition"), the Greater Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce ("GCACC"), the University of the West Indies Alumni Association and others across the country to organize regional/local competitions.

The essay title is "**The Role of Caribbean Americans in American History**" and the competition is open to 11th and 12th grade students who reside in Broward and Miami-Dade counties and have a Caribbean heritage as defined by the competition rules. The **closing date for the competition is Friday, May 22, 2009** and winning entries in the local/regional competition will be announced at UNIFEST in Lauderdale Lakes, on May 31, 2009. Information about the Institute and national Caribbean-American Heritage month activities may be obtained at www.icsdc.org.

Essay Competition Rules

1. The essay competition is open to 11th and 12th grade students who reside in Broward and Miami-Dade counties and have at least one parent or guardian who was born in the Caribbean.
2. Entries must be submitted as an individual effort, and must be **original unpublished** work. Essays **should not** be concurrently submitted for other competitions. Only one essay will be accepted from each author.
3. Entries in this essay competition must be titled: "**The Role of Caribbean Americans in American History**". While the content of the essay is of primary concern, proper grammar and spelling will also be factors in the judging.
4. The essays should be between 1,000 to 1,500 words, typewritten, double-spaced, 8 ½" by 11" (letter-size) paper with all pages numbered. The absolute minimum or maximum number of words must be observed.
5. The essay must be written in English and all entries must include a **bibliography**.
6. Entries that do not comply with any of the competition rules will be disqualified. A separate entry form and cover sheet with the following details **must** be included: essay title, writer's name, sex, grade and word count. **Neither** writer's name, **nor** the writer's country of Caribbean heritage should appear in the main essay.
7. The editorial board of the Institute of Caribbean Studies reserves the right to edit essays selected for publication. All essays become the property of the Institute and will not be returned.
8. The essays will be assessed in confidence by an independent panel of judges. No appeals will be entertained. Results of the competition will be announced on May 31, 2009.
9. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place entries. Fourth and fifth place entries will be recognized with an honorable mention award. All awards and recognition will be solely at the discretion of the judging panel.
10. Award winners will be informed by mail and appropriate presentations of prizes made.

Prizes: 1st place: \$500.00; 2nd place: \$250.00; 3rd place: \$100.00; 4th and 5th place: honorable mention: \$50.00

Essays should be mailed, or emailed in MS Word format to attn: Student Affairs Director, TATI, Inc. **Entries must be submitted no later than May 22, 2009**

Contact: Student Affairs Director, TATI, Inc.
P. O. Box 100104, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310
Telephone: 954-802-4291
Email: studentaffairs@taticaribbean.com



Institute of Caribbean Studies

June 2009 - National Caribbean American Heritage Month – Youth Essay Competition

Essay topic: “The Role of Caribbean Americans in American History”

Official Entry Form

Name _____
First Last Middle Initial

Address _____

City State Zip County _____

Phone _____
Cell Home

Email _____

School _____

Address _____

Library _____ Church _____

Grade _____

Explain your Caribbean heritage/connection

Mail or Email essays (in MS Word format) to:

Attn.: Student Affairs Director
TATI, Inc.
P. O. Box 100104, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33310
Email: studentaffairs@taticaribbean.com



ENTRIES MUST BE SUBMITTED NO LATER THAN MAY 22, 2009