



Black History Month 2026

Essay Opens: January 25, 2026

Submission Deadline: February 8, 2026 5pm CST to pgcscholarship1914@gmail.com

TYPING GUIDELINES: Word Document, Times New Roman 12-point font, Double spaced, Name, phone number and grade level must be included in email
NOT ON ESSAY

Grades 1-3 (100 words may be legibly handwritten or typed)

- What is the one thing you learned about a black leader or hero? Why is it important to remember them?

Judging criteria: understanding of topic, ideas and content, personal connection, organization, writing conventions

Grades 4-5 (200 words typed)

- How does learning about black history help people understand fairness and equality?

Judging criteria: understanding of Black History, use of examples, explanation and reasoning, organization and writing conventions

Grades 6-8 (300 – 600 words typed)

- How does black history month help give a voice to people whose stories were often left out of history?

Judging criteria: depth of understanding, analysis and thinking, evidence of examples, organization and clarity and writing mechanics

Grades 9-12 (500 – 1000 words typed)

- Should schools continue to recognize black history month, or would teaching black history throughout the year be more meaningful? Use evidence to support your argument.

Judging criteria: Thesis/argument, critical analysis, use of evidence, organization and coherence, writing quality and mechanics