

THE 2ND ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
MLK REFLECTIONS CONTEST

The MLK Reflections Contest invites you to develop a well thought out essay, poem, spoken word or video that draws on the quote and responds to the question below. Your submission should demonstrate a careful analysis, synthesis and evaluation of Dr. King's poignant words.

“One day the South will know that when these disinherited children of God sat down at lunch counters, they were in reality standing up for what is best in the American dream and for the most sacred values in our Judaeo-Christian heritage, thereby bringing our nation back to those great wells of democracy which were dug deep by the founding fathers in their formulation of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.”

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Essay Question:

How does the quote illuminate the way in which movements for social justice remain, in certain instances, unappreciated in their own time? Dr. King purposefully connected the civil rights struggle to larger democratic traditions. In this way, King argued that the struggle for racial and economic justice were intrinsic parts of a larger American narrative of social progress.

In what ways does King's quote apply to the Occupy Wall Street and Occupy the Hood Movements? Are the participants of these movements for social justice unrecognized prophets who future historians and activists will recognize as tapping into the nation's great democratic wells that King wrote so stirringly of?

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION:

- Only one entry per student may be submitted.
- First (\$250), Second (\$150) and Third (\$100) Prizes will be awarded. The First Prize winner will have the opportunity to read their reflection at The Africana Center Black History Month closing event on February 24, 2012
- Writing submissions should be 12-point font, double spaced and no longer than 1,200 words submitted in Microsoft Word or a compatible format. Page numbers and an essay title should also be included.
- Spoken Word or Video entries should be no longer than 10 minutes in length.
- Essays will be evaluated based on quality of idea(s), presentation and organization, clarity, appropriate use of evidence and mastery of undergraduate/graduate level writing skills. It is your responsibility to submit only your own original work and abide by the Tufts University academic integrity guidelines: <http://studentservices.tufts.edu/dos/publications.htm>.

Submissions must be emailed to tuftsafricana@gmail.com by February 3, 2012, 5:00pm

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