

ABENY, INC.
 ASSOCIATION OF BLACK EDUCATORS OF NEW YORK
 PO Box 341053, Jamaica, NY 11434
 Dr. Shirley A. Rose, President

**The Association of Black Educators of New York
 Black History Essay Contest 2012**

Theme: “Peoples of African Descent: Global Influences and Traditions.”

In honor of 2011 as the United Nations’ *Year of People of African Descent*, this year’s ABENY Essay Contest will celebrate the global influence of peoples of African descent. Students are asked to research how Blacks have brought African culture, values or themes to countries throughout the world, particularly Haiti, Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, South America, Central America and the United States. African leaders and their contributions in bringing African culture, values or themes to the world may also be considered. Here are some examples:

Muhammad Ali from the United States	Patrice Lumumba from the Congo	August Wilson from the United States
Adam Clayton Powell from the United States	Jean-Jacques Dessalines from Haiti	Zora Neale Hurston from the United States
Miriam Makeba from South Africa	Bob Marley from Jamaica	Malcolm X from the United States
Jan Carew from Guyana	W. E. B. Dubois from the United States	Derek Walcott from St. Lucia

In writing your essay, follow these steps:

1. Select one person of African descent. (Note: He/she does not have to come from the above list).
2. Identify the person’s country, and his or her achievements.
3. Discuss how he/she helped to bring African culture, values or themes to the world. Examples of African themes include racial pride, equality, self-determination and social justice.
4. Explain how reading about this person has influenced you.

Guidelines: Students in the NYC Public Schools are invited to participate as follows:

- Students in Grades 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 should write a 250-400 word essay.
- Students in Grades 4 and 5 should write a 200 word essay.
- Students in Grades 2 and 3 should write a 150 word essay.

Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:

content, presentation, originality, neatness, quality of research, adherence to topic, proper use of language conventions, proper use of punctuation and grammar

In addition, all entries must:

be typed or neatly written using dark blue or black ink on 8 and half x 11 paper with margins; have a cover sheet that includes: the title or topic of the essay, school, district, borough, student's **first and last name**, grade, class; the teacher's **first and last name** and email address, and the principal's **first and last name** and email address.

Important: Include research used, references and bibliography. Essays which do not include references will **not** be considered.

Only three (3) entries per school will be accepted. Entries will not be returned.

DEADLINE:

All entries must be postmarked by the close of business no later than **Monday, January 9, 2012**. No entries will be accepted after the postmark date.

PRIZES

- Each winner will receive a certificate at the ABENY "Bridge from Africa" ceremony during Black History Month, **Saturday, February 4, 2012, 1-3 PM**, Cadman Plaza Library, 280 Cadman Plaza at Tillary Street, Brooklyn Heights, New York.
- Additionally, each winner will receive a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond upon completing and submitting the required U.S. Savings Bond form which requests the student's full name, social security number, and a mailing address. The completed form must be submitted to Mr. Victor Jordan, P.O. Box 100042, Vanderveer Station, Brooklyn, NY, 11210, on or before **Friday, March 9, 2012** in order to be eligible to receive the bond.
- Principals or their designees will be notified by email of the winners. The Savings Bond form will also be sent by email to principals or their designees and distributed at the Bridge from Africa ceremony.
- If there are questions, contact Dr. Sheilah Bobo at sbobo@schools.nyc.gov or call her at 917-412-9099.

ABENY ESSAY CONTEST COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr. Sheilah Bobo and Ms. Jeanette Toomer, Co-Chairpersons; Mr. Victor Jordan, Essay Bond Coordinator; Ms. Nora Barnes, Ms. Aletta Seales, and Ms. Larcelia Kebe, Education Committee Chairperson

Please mail essay entries to: Ms. Jeanette Toomer
PO Box 1092
Cathedral Station,
New York, NY 10025-1092