



Thank you for your interest in the Zion Baptist Church 2025 Martin Luther King Spoken Word & Written Word Competition. The theme is “Peace and Love In Action.” For Dr. King, peace and love were not abstract ideas or vague feelings, but real tools to fix the broken parts of individuals, communities, nations, and the world. At a time when Nazis march in Cincinnati, when more teens die from homicide and suicide than ever before, and when national and international battles (political and military) encroach on our daily lives, peace and love are more important than ever. YOUR VOICE on their power to bring change is more important than ever.

There are two competitions—a spoken word contest and a written word competition open to all 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students regardless of location. However, spoken word competitors must be present at the April 5 event to compete. Cash prizes will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers in these four categories:

7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> thru 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> thru 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Spoken Word	Written Word	Spoken Word	Written Word

Prizes will be awarded at Zion’s Martin Luther King Contest program on April 5, 2025 from 4pm -7pm at Zion Baptist Church, 630 Glenwood Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229. SUBMISSION DEADLINE IS MARCH 15, 2025.

**CONTEST GUIDELINES**



- ALL entrants must register using this [link here](#) or by scanning the QR code here or on the flyer.
- Profanity, sexual language, and lewd behavior or language are not acceptable and all entries using them will be eliminated from the competition.

**SPOKEN WORD COMPETITION**

*Competitors in the spoken word competition are asked to:*

- Prepare and present an original 1- 3 minute oral (spoken word) presentation addressing the theme.
- Email a rough draft of their presentation to [zionmlkcontest@gmail.com](mailto:zionmlkcontest@gmail.com) by the deadline. The rough draft will not be judged.
- Be present at and deliver their presentation at the April 5 event. All judging will occur at the event. You must be present to be judged.

Presentations will be evaluated in four areas:

1. **DELIVERY:** How effectively does the speaker use eye contact, posture, movements, gestures, expression, tone, and pacing in the presentation?
2. **PREPAREDNESS:** Does the speaker deliver the presentation without cards or other reminder aids? Is the presentation delivered without discernable memory lapses?
3. **TOPIC/THEME:** How well does the piece speak to the theme?
4. **TIME:** How well does the presentation fit into the timeframe?

**WRITTEN WORD COMPETITION**

*Competitors in the written word competition are asked to:*

- Submit an original written work for judging. It can be a work of poetry, prose (essay, narrative, etc.) no longer than two letter-size pages.
- Email their submissions to [zionmlkcontest@gmail.com](mailto:zionmlkcontest@gmail.com) by the deadline.
- If entrants live in the Greater Cincinnati area, we ask that they be present. Although the judging of written work will happen before the event, prizes will be given at the event.

Written works will be evaluated in three areas:

1. **FAITHFULNESS/RELEVANCE:** How well does the piece speak to the theme?
2. **CREATIVITY/ORIGINALITY:** Does the piece show the author’s individuality? Does it show uniqueness of thought and/or expression?
3. **FORM & FUNCTION:** Does the language, punctuation, and structure of the entry help or hinder the flow and readability of the entry?

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact event co-chair Millicent “Mimi” Mickle by email at [zionmlkcontest@gmail.com](mailto:zionmlkcontest@gmail.com) or by text at 513-715-8115.