

Martin University Black History Month Essay Contest

Essay Topic

If Your Life Matters....

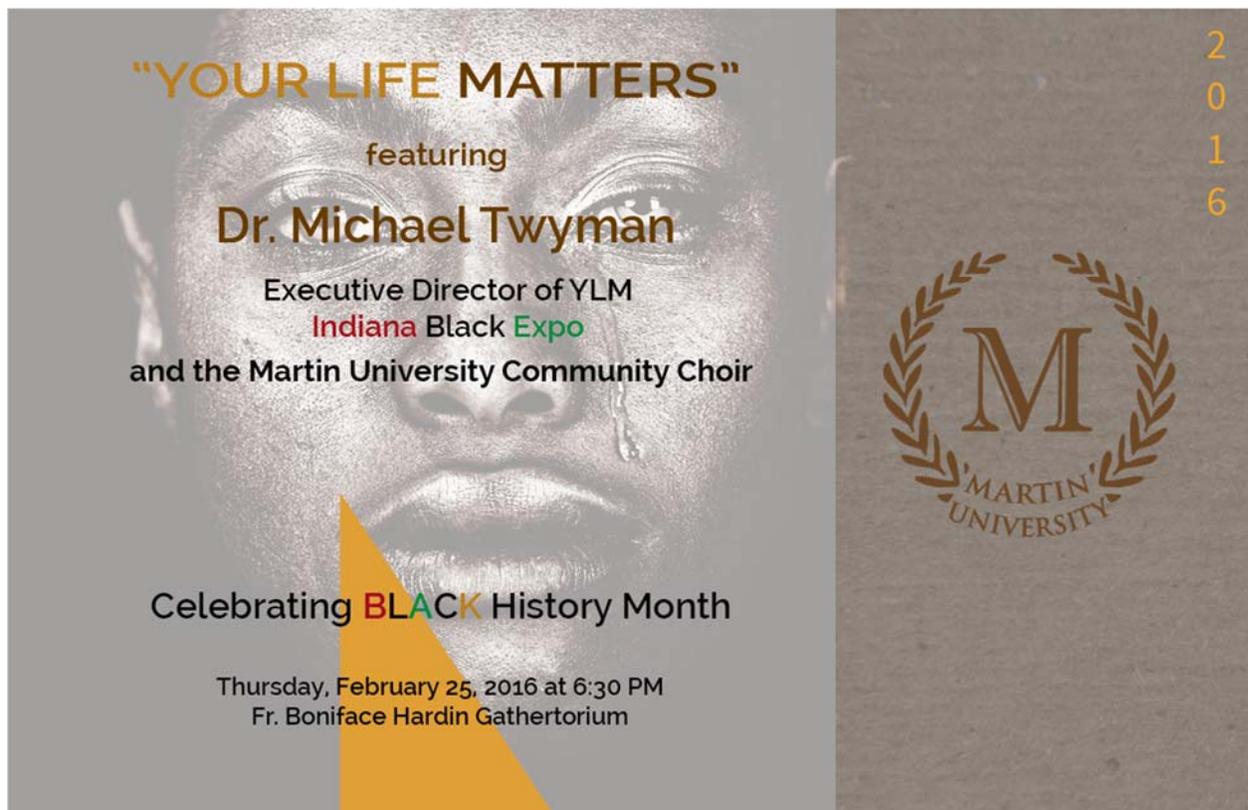
What things must you do to positively impact your personal growth and development and that of those within your community and beyond?

What societal changes do you believe must be made to effect change in your community?

Your essay must include the societal and personal impact of choices including evidence to support both, demographics (and data to support), and evidence to support the success of suggested action plans to effect change.

Refer to attached for essay submission requirements.

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Martin University Requirements for Black History Month Essay Contest

1. Write a one page (500 words) essay, based on the essay topic.
2. The essay should be written in Arial 12 pt. font and double spaced.
3. Discuss (in writing) and /or provide documentation that addresses all requirements for the essay topic.
4. Use the following cover page format for your scholarship application packet.
2016 Black History Month Essay Contest
Applicant's first and last name
Date: Month, date, and year
EXAMPLE:
"Why Do Black Lives Matter?"
James Smith
February 10, 2016
5. The essay application packet should include the following documents in the order listed below:
Cover page
Essay (edited, signed and dated)

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6. Cash prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.
7. Winners will be recognized at the "Your Life Matters" Black History Program. Recipients must be present to receive award.

Martin University Gathertorium, February 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

8. E-mail essay to Professor Gavia: mgavia@martin.edu by **February 10, 2016**. **Late submissions will not be accepted**

Note: Essays that are not submitted in the format listed above will not be accepted. Your essay will be graded based on the guidelines stated above and the rubric below.

CATEGORY	High- 24 to 30 Points	Middle- 18 to 23 Points	Low- 0 to 17 Points	Points
Analysis and Content	Writing reflects a sophisticated understanding of issues, concepts and perspective. Information presented is clearly related to concepts, issues and perspectives applications are clearly identified.	Writing reflects a basic understanding of issues, concepts and perspective Information presented may be related to concept, issues and perspective but is not clearly identified and may not be apparent to the reader.	Writing does not reflect an understanding of concept, issues or perspective.	
Scope and Comprehension	Scope clearly identified and presented with depth. Analysis and position regarding the topic question is clear and demonstrates clear understanding of the issue and is well supported.	Scope clearly identified and presented but may lack depth. Position regarding the topic question is clear but analysis may not demonstrate clear understanding of the issue or may not be well supported.	Not clearly presented. Position regarding the topic question may not be clearly communicated.	
Creativity	Paper demonstrates original or innovative thinking. Writer communicates insight and perceptiveness in making connections. Paper begins with strong objective facts and then progresses to interpretation,	Paper demonstrates some original or innovative thinking. Writer communicates some insight and perceptiveness in making connections. Paper tends more toward reporting without interpretation, application, or analysis.	Paper does not demonstrate original or innovative thinking. Writer does not communicate insight and perceptiveness in making connections. Paper is almost entirely reporting without	

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	application, and analysis.		interpretation, application, or analysis.	
Clarity of Writing and Writing Technique	Writing is crisp, clear, and succinct. Sentence structure is effective and author paraphrases effectively and offers additional interpretation and perspective. Supporting references and examples are offered effectively. Paper is well-organized with effective segue. No spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors are made.	Writing is generally clear, unnecessary words may be used. Paragraph or sentence structure is repetitive or too similar to the source without additional interpretation or perspective. Supporting references and examples are not clearly tied to the thesis. Paper could be better organized. Few spellings, grammar, or punctuation errors are made.	Hard to understand, writing is disorganized or distracting. Information is too similar to the source without additional interpretation or perspective. Supporting references and examples are missing or weak. Paper is unorganized or organization is distracting. Paper contains misspelled words, incorrect grammar, and improper punctuation.	
Citations/References, APA format	Citations and paper follow APA format.	Citations are provided, but do not follow APA format. Paper may follow some APA guidelines, but lacks APA compliance in some places.	Citations do not provide enough information to identify sources. Paper does not follow APA format.	