



DR. MAYA ANGELOU ESSAY WRITING CONTEST



# We Must Not Be Defeated

## Eligibility

Open to WS/FCS High School Seniors (2021 Graduates Only)

## Essay Contest Writing Prompt

Write a reflective and scholarly personal narrative sharing how you as a young person have felt marginalized, disenfranchised, or stereotyped by prejudice, racism, sexism, and injustice in your community. What is the collective victory for our community when young people overcome these challenges and become stronger by refusing to be defined by difficulties?

## Essay Submission Rules and Requirements

- 1250 - 1500 word length
- 12pt font (Times Roman or similar standard font)
- Double-spaced
- Must be proofread by teacher or school staff.
- If you don't have a teacher to help with revisions, please email Karen Meier ([ksmeier@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:ksmeier@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)) or Melissa Agee ([magee@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:magee@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)).
- Ensure that all words are spelled correctly.
- Check grammar, structure, and punctuation rules if you're unsure.
- Use this link to join the Essay Contest Canvas course: [wsfcs.instructure.com/enroll/HH7B6Y](https://wsfcs.instructure.com/enroll/HH7B6Y). Submit your essay and cover sheet through Canvas.
- Essay Cover Sheet and Scoring Rubric are found on the Canvas page.
- All essays meeting contest requirements will be eligible for publication in an upcoming anthology.



***We may encounter many defeats but we must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats, so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it.***

- DR. MAYA ANGELOU

## Awards

**First Place: \$5,000**  
**Second Place: \$3,000**  
**Third Place: \$1,800**

NOTE: DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL.

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DR. MAYA ANGELOU  
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## Important Dates

- 3/15/2021: Essay starting date for students
- 4/30/2021: Submission due date for students
- 5/17/2021: Winner and Finalists announced
- 5/25/2021: Award Ceremony at WS/FCS Board Meeting

## Suggested Timeline for Students

- 3/15/2021: Essay starting date for students
- 3/29/2021: First draft to editor for review on the Maya Angelou Day of Reading
- 4/20/2021: Second draft to editor for review
- 4/30/2021: Submission due date for students

## Project Facilitators & Contact Information

- Melissa Agee, [magee@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:magee@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)
- Karen Meier, [ksmeier@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:ksmeier@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)

## The Dr. Maya Angelou Essay Contest is Supported By:

**Guy Johnson**, *Author and Son of Dr. Maya Angelou*

**Talitha Vickers**, *WXII Anchor*

**Tricia McManus**, *WS/FCS Superintendent*

**Nicolette Grant**, *WS/FCS Chief Academic Officer*

**Melissa Agee**, *WS/FCS Director of Secondary ELA*

**Karen Meier**, *WS/FCS Director of Library Media Services*

## NOTE ON DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS:

\$1,000 of each prize will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony, and the balance will be awarded upon verification of high school graduation.

