

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
*“MARCHING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE”*

**SAINT JOHN’S BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Woburn, Massachusetts

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**PURPOSE** The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Program is a program offered by Saint John’s Baptist Church to recognize high school students who embrace the ideals of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program provides financial assistance for high school seniors who are committed to social justice, and have demonstrated leadership or active participation in community service.

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH** Submit a one paragraph biographical sketch describing achievements, community service involvement, current higher education status, and career goals.

**ESSAY** High school students responding to this year’s writing contest should write an essay of no more than 500 words by selecting one (1) of the following topics:

***Option A.*** Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked toward nonviolent social change during his leadership of the civil rights movement. If he were alive today, what social issue would you recommend that he address and why? What steps do you think he could take to address that social issue and create meaningful change? How could you help?

or

***Option B.*** In his speech titled "The Drum Major Instinct," Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. defined greatness as service and said that "everybody can be great because everybody can serve." How have you served your community? What are your plans for showing your greatness through service in the future?

For identification purposes, please include the applicant’s name and birth date on the essay.

**APPLICATIONS** The complete essay and recommendations may be submitted either in writing or email by March 15, 2022:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Committee  
Saint John’s Baptist Church  
c/o Michael D. West  
38-40 Everett Street  
Woburn, Massachusetts 01801  
[blountwest@comcast.net](mailto:blountwest@comcast.net)

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**SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY WRITING TIPS**

**SELECT**

Select writing topic A or B, not both.

- Familiarize yourself with Dr. King's life. You can accomplish this through research using books, newspaper articles, the internet, and by speaking with teachers or librarians who are well-versed on Dr. King's life.
- Relate the topic to circumstances or situations that affect your own life. How does the topic you chose relate to your own life?
- Document all the resources and include them in your bibliography. Include Biblical references where applicable.

**OUTLINE**

Draft an outline to help organize your thoughts and think about the flow of your paper.

**DRAFT**

**First draft**

- Have a teacher, parent or educator review your first draft.
- Have your reviewer pay special attention to the organization of the paper, the supporting details and elements that don't make sense to them.
- Update your bibliography.

**Edit**

- Have a teacher, parent or classmate review your paper for mechanics (grammar, spelling, punctuation).

**Final Draft**

- Read the paper out loud.
- Make sure that the paper correlates with your chosen essay topic, and is supported by research. Make sure that your own voice is heard in the paper, as well, in your analysis of research and in your vision for the future.

**FINISH**

Do not forget to put your name and birth date on the essay.

Relax! Know that you have done your best on your research paper and it is ready to submit.