



## ***How Do Racism and Inequity Affect Your Community?***

### **About the Award:**

The Iowa State Education Association is committed to advocating for Iowa's Public Education System. This award supports educators who are working to increase students' critical thinking skills and to recognize students' excellent work in this area.

### **Who is Eligible?**

All students enrolled in Iowa's public schools' grades 3-12 or an Iowa Community College. Students must submit original work. There are four categories for participation:

Grades 3 – 5

Grades 6 – 8

Grades 9 – 12

Community College

### **Deadline:**

Upload/received by deadline: February 28, 2021, 11:59 p.m.

Essays will be accepted beginning December 1, 2020.

### **Why Apply?**

This essay contest allows Iowa students the opportunity to explore how racism and inequity have impacted or affected their community, school or families.

**Topic:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare the inequities in our public schools, health care systems and our communities. Fundamental to the health of our state and our country, we must look for ways to understand and address racial injustice and other inequities facing us. How would you help solve the issues, problems and circumstances of today? What do you see as the biggest barriers to reaching equality? What does it mean to be anti-racist?

**Format:**

The essay will be scored on the following factors:

- At least 300 words for grades 3 – 5.
- At least 500 – with a maximum of 1500 words for grades 6 – Community College.
- Organization & Progression (on topic, flows smoothly).
- Development of Ideas (details & elaboration). Use of Language / Conventions & Grammar (writer's word choice and language).
- Entries may be typed or handwritten but must be double-spaced.

**Entering:**

Entries may be submitted by email to [Kimberly.Knight@isea.org](mailto:Kimberly.Knight@isea.org).

Send mailed entries to:

*Iowa State Education Association  
Attention: Kimberly Knight  
777 Third Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309*

**Award Recognition:**

First Place: \$50.00 and publication in the ISEA Communique Newsletter. Winners will be notified via email, and the names of winners will be announced in March 2021.

**Resources for Educators:**

<https://neadjustice.org/resources/>

<http://rethinkingschools.aidcvr.com/publication/index.shtml>

<https://neadjustice.org/black-lives-matter-at-school/>

<https://www.raceforward.org/resources-teaching-kids-about-race-and-racism>

## **Official Rules:**

### Section 1 - General Rules

1. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others.
2. The Iowa State Education Association will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay or part thereof entered in the contest without payment to the author. All essays become property of ISEA.

### Section II – Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to all Iowa public school students in grades 3-12 and Community College.
2. Contestants may submit only one essay entry during any given contest period.

### Section III – Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic. The topic for this award period is: How do racism and equity effect your community?
2. Each entry must include the Contest Entry Title Page (entry form) or submit a cover page containing the same information found on the Entry Form.
3. Essays may be typewritten or legibly handwritten but must be double-spaced.
4. Essays must contain no more than 300 words for students in grades 3 – 5 and between 500 and 1,500 words for students in grades 6 through Community College.
5. Every word of the essay is counted but does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes.
6. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be cited properly. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
7. All entries become the property of ISEA, and permission forms must be signed by guardians and a representative classroom educator for students 3-12.

### Section IV – Judging and Timing

Judging will be completed by a panel of qualified ISEA judges.

### Section V – Scoring of Contest

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical:

1. Organization & Progression (on topic, flows smoothly): 45 points
2. Development of Ideas (details and elaboration): 30 points
3. Use of Language/Conventions & Grammar (word choice, formatting and language): 20 points
4. Neatness: 5 points.

# ISEA Award Entry Form

How Do Racism and Inequity Affect Your Community?

*PLEASE ATTACH THIS FORM TO YOUR ENTRY*

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level and Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Educator: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: (for students in grades 3 – 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: I certify this is my original work.

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Educator Signature: (for students in grades 3 – 12)

\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: February 28, 2021 Questions? Contact [Kimberly.Knight@isea.org](mailto:Kimberly.Knight@isea.org)