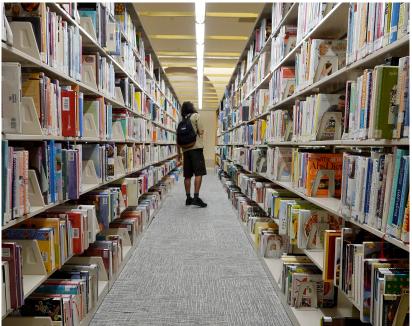
## The 2023-24 Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay and Art and Contest **Freedom of expression and our libraries**

**Contest sponsored by the Latah County Human Rights Task Force** 



## **Contest prompts**

**Lower Elementary (Grades 1-3)**. Essay topic: Write a paragraph about a book from your school or public library that taught you something important. Art topic: draw a picture about a book that has taught you something important.

**Upper Elementary (Grades 4-5)**. Essay topic: Write a three paragraph thank-you letter to your school or public library, discussing an aspect of the library that you value most. Art topic: create a drawing or poster celebrating an aspect of your library that you value most.

## Martin Luther King, Jr. was a strong proponent of freedom of expression, both in the U.S. and abroad. Our public libraries have upheld this freedom.

According to a Latah County Library District policy statement, "Freedom to read, view, and listen is essential to our democracy." Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

<u>Middle School (Grades 6-8)</u>. Essay topic: Write a five-paragraph essay explaining why the freedom of expression is important to you, to your library, and to our democracy. Art topic: create a poster celebrating the freedom of expression.

High School (Grades 9-12). Essay topic: Research the current debate over the freedom of expression in school and public libraries. Write a report on this debate, then draw your own conclusions. Art topic: create a poster, video, or podcast that conveys what is important to you about freedom of expression.

**Contest entries are due January 25<sup>th</sup>**. Teachers and individual students can submit entries anytime up to this date. Email Walter Hesford (hesford@uidaho.edu). to have entries picked up, or mail them to the Latah County Human Rights Task Force, P.O. Box 8613, Moscow, ID 83843. Contest winners will the honored in a ceremony on February 10<sup>th</sup> and receive a \$25 gift certificate from BookPeople of Moscow.