

“I Am Rosa Parks” Essay Contest

On Dec. 1, 1955 – Rosa Parks was arrested and jailed for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama serving as a violation of the city’s racial segregation laws.

Her courageous act of civil disobedience sparked the beginning of a 381-day boycott of the Montgomery Bus system, devastating the transportation system in the city.

This historic move also led to a 1956 Supreme Court decision banning segregation on public transportation.

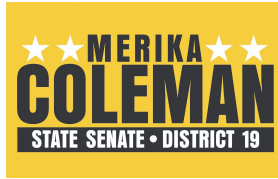
We commemorate Rosa Parks for her heroic stand against racial inequality and injustice by reflecting on the impact of her life. This contest serves as an opportunity to pay homage to Parks and the many unsung heroes that are not named in history books but served as catalysts for change, along with uplifting the work of future change agents.

Guiding Questions:

- *Who was Rosa Parks?*
- *What was her role in the Civil Rights Movement PRIOR to her refusal to give up her seat on the bus?*
- *In what ways is she a role model for all people?*
- *What legacy has she left with us?*
- *In what ways are you similar to Rosa Parks?*
- *Can you make personal or current connections to her work, struggles, or life?*

Requirements/Guidelines:

- Must be 400-600 words.
- Use research of her body of work in the Civil Rights Movement.
- Writer(s) should make a connection between Rosa Parks’ work/life and their own or connection with her fight for Civil Rights and current issues today.



- **DO NOT** write the student name on the actual essay. Please submit an essay with a contest cover sheet. Please see below for the cover sheet.

Judging Criteria:

Content of Essay 35 points

(Subject Adherence, Theme, Logic, Content, Color)

Evidence of Research 25 points

(Comprehensive knowledge of Rosa Parks and her entire body of work evident in writing)

Overall Effectiveness 15 points

(Appeal, Impression, Attitude, Effect)

Word Limit 10 points

(Minimum of 400 words, doesn't exceed 600 words)

Grammar 15 points

(Uses correct spelling and grammar)

****Bonus Points 5 points**

*Additional :45 second - :60 second video from students that summarize essay
(Video should include Student Name, School, Grade, Summary of Essay)*

Essays + bonus videos must be emailed to
connect@merikacoleman.com
on or before December 15, 2021 at 7 PM cst

Timeline/Deadlines:

Contest Timeline: December 2, 2021 - December 15, 2021 at 7 PM cst
Winners Announced: December 20, 2021

Essays + bonus videos must be emailed to
connect@merikacoleman.com

\$1,000 in prizes awarded.

Elementary - Middle School

First Place - \$250.00
Second Place - \$150.00
Third Place - \$100.00



High School

First Place - \$250.00

Second Place - \$150.00

Third Place - \$100.00

All winners will be invited to attend and read their essays at an awards presentation on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 4 PM. Logistics will be provided to winners.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to elementary through high school students that reside in Alabama Senate District 19. The home address and school placement must fall within the Alabama Senate District 19.

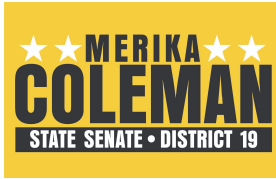
Alabama Senate District 19 includes the following areas:

- Adamsville
- Bessemer
- Select Birmingham
- Brookside
- Fairfield
- Forestdale
- Hueytown
- Maytown
- McCalla
- Midfield
- Pleasant Grove
- Sylvan Springs

In order to confirm your eligibility - verify your address here:

https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator/

For essay and contest questions email: Dreed@merikacoleman.com



“I Am Rosa Parks” Essay Contest Cover Sheet

Please Print

Student Name:

Grade: _____ **Age:** _____

Parent/Guardian:

School:

Media Release

I give permission for my child's work and image to be used in media coverage of the “I Am Rosa Parks” Essay Contest and in future advertisements for the event.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Student Signature:
