

Agape Connection, Inc. Presents

The 4th Martin Luther King Jr., Day Oratorical Contest with a Grand Prize of \$1,500

Open to 9th-12th grade students

Theme: Empowering a Village

“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Authority, which is conferred by a formal position, should not be confused with leadership*. Leadership is a behavior. It can be practiced, by anyone, at anytime, in any place.

Reflect on leadership and what it means to empower those who are disenfranchised: by race, socio-economic status, education, citizenship, health, age, etc. How and why do you stand in solidarity with these people and empower them to achieve their greatest potential?

Next Steps

1. **Register** by emailing agapecinc@gmail.com by no later than **December 23rd** with the following information:
 - Name
 - School
 - Grade
 - Contact information of a parent/guardian
 - School reference (teacher or administrator)
2. Submit a written copy of your speech responding to the prompt above by **January 6, 2017**
3. Look for notice of your placement in the top 6 by **January 11, 2017**
4. Compete for the Grand Prize at Agape's King Day Celebration, **January 15, 2017 @ 12 PM** @ 2950 Bilter Road, Aurora, IL 60502, St. John Church

Placement Criteria & Tips

BE INSIGHTFUL:

- Communicate a thoughtful and appropriate engagement with the theme and prompt
- Establish a personal connection and application to the topic
- Have a clear direction for your speech and stay true to it
- Take a creative approach and ensure that your writing has a logical structure
- Reflect on the importance of the topic for you, your school, and your community at large

BE PRESENT:

- Have a strong command of the English language
- We will conduct phone interviews so be polite and well spoken
- Be Creative. Be Courageous. Be Convincing. Be Consistent with who you are
- Be respectful of the allotted time - speech is between 5 and 8 minutes
- You don't need to memorize your speech. (This will vary from person to person.) What's key is that, whether you choose to memorize or not, we see you
- If selected for the final rounds, be prepared to rehearse, rehearse, rehearse

