

**Sponsored by the  
Dr. Martin Luther  
King Celebration  
Committee of  
St. Johns County**

**Awards**

One winner will be selected from each participating high school and will receive a certificate and a \$50 award.

From those winners, a Best Overall Essay will be selected. The winning student will receive a certificate and a \$150 award.

Winners will be announced on Tuesday, Sept. 21 during Celebrate Freedom Week.

**BACKGROUND**

The Emancipation Proclamation was issued by U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and declared that "all persons held as slaves within any States, or designated part of the State, the people whereof shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

It was read in St. Augustine, Florida on January 1, 1863. It did not reach Texas until June 19, 1865. In 2021, June 19 (Juneteenth) was proclaimed our newest federal holiday.

**ALIGNMENT TO STANDARDS**

[SS.912.A.2.1](#)

Review causes and consequences of the Civil War.

[SS.912.A.2.2](#)

Assess the influence of significant people or groups on Reconstruction.

[SS.912.A.2.4](#)

Distinguish the freedoms guaranteed to African Americans and other groups with the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments to the Constitution.



*Juneteenth Essay Contest*

**ESSAY PROMPT**

What is the historical significance for celebrating Juneteenth?

**Essay Guidelines**

- Answer the prompt in 300-500 words.
- You may type or write your essay by hand.
- Include student name and school name at the top.
- Submit your essay to your history teacher by 4:00pm on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.