



# Iowa Juneteenth Observance

A Program of The Des Moines Urban Experience Magazine  
"Marking 30 Years of Service to the Iowa Community"



## 2020 Iowa Juneteenth Observance Essay Contest Sponsored by Drake University

To: Iowa High School Students, Grades 9 - 11

From: Nakia Ewing  
Iowa Juneteenth Observance  
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Subject: 2020 Iowa Juneteenth Observance 'Essay Contest'

Juneteenth' is an international observance marking the end to slavery on **June 19, 1865**. Juneteenth will celebrate **155 years of celebration during 2020**. The Iowa Juneteenth Observance will mark its **30th** anniversary as well. On **April 11, 2002**, Governor Tom Vilsack signed legislation establishing Juneteenth as an official day of recognition in Iowa that is observed annually on the third Saturday in June. **This year's theme for Iowa Juneteenth 2020 is "Breaking Chains."**

**ELIGIBILITY:** The essay contest is statewide and open to "all students" *enrolled in grades 9 through 11*. We encourage essayists to enlist the guidance of a teacher or other adult when completing the essay. The essay contest serves as an inspirational vehicle for youth to strengthen appreciation for: 1) *scholarship*; 2) *cultural diversity*; and 3) *the enhancement of community relations*.

**ESSAY QUESTION:** "Write about a current day hero who is presently breaking chains for people of color. How are they breaking chains and why are their actions making a difference?"

### CONTEST RULE

**REQUIREMENTS:** 1) Essays must be a minimum of 500 words and not exceed 700 words; 2) Essays may be typed or word-processed (double spaced); 3) Essayists must use at least 5 sources of information from books, newspapers, magazines, or websites which must be listed (cited) on a separate page and submitted with the essay; 4) Submit a color photo (portrait style – headshot), and 5) Complete the Student Information Form provided with this application which can be accessed at [www.iowajuneteenth.com](http://www.iowajuneteenth.com)

**TOP HONORS:** Each of the three winning essayists will receive a trophy. In addition, the first-place winner will receive a **\$1,000.00 cash prize**, the second-place winner will receive a **\$500.00 cash prize**, and the third place winner will receive a **\$250.00 cash prize**. The trophies and cash prizes are scheduled to be presented at an Iowa Juneteenth Observance awards ceremony in Des Moines (TBA) and winning essayists must be present to receive their trophies/cash prizes.

**DEADLINE:** Submit your essay, along with the Student Information Form, your photo, and your list of reading sources, by email, on or before **Friday May 8th, 2020**, to Nakia Ewing at [nakiae78@gmail.com](mailto:nakiae78@gmail.com) or send the original essay by regular mail (**postmarked by May 8th, 2020**) to:

*The Urban Experience Magazine  
Iowa Juneteenth Essay Contest  
PO Box 3092, Des Moines, Iowa 50316*

**Note:** Students who are family members of the: 1) Iowa Juneteenth Observance Planning Committee; The Urban Experience Magazine, or Drake University administration, faculty, or staff - are ineligible for the essay contest. For additional information, please contact: Nakia Ewing at [nakiae78@gmail.com](mailto:nakiae78@gmail.com)

\*\*\*\*Complete the Student Information Form\*\*\*\*

**Student Information Form  
(Submit with Essay Materials)**

To: Iowa High School Students, Grades 9-11

From: Nakia Ewing

Please provide 'complete information' as requested below and submit with your essay materials.

**STUDENT INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Street  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Name(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone Number:  
(Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Grade Level (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, or 11<sup>th</sup> grade)

School Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Telephone Number: (Area Code) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Contact's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Remember to list (cite) at least five sources of information and submit them with your essay and photo.**