



Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Prize

The Wilson Center for Spiritual Exploration and Multifaith Dialogue

About

The Peace Writing Prize Competition is sponsored by the Wilson Center and made possible by the generosity of talented author Dorothy Clarke Wilson. The Wilson Center believes in the difference that powerful writers can make in our world and seeks to encourage students to practice using their voice to promote peace and justice.

Instructions

Civility, free speech, and social action are pertinent topics now as they were in 1962, when the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. gave the address quoted below. Please respond to this quote in a 750-word written piece, addressing one or more of the following questions. Any genre of writing is welcome, including but not limited to essays, poems, fiction, nonfiction, and editorials. This competition is open to all University of Maine students.

“God grant that the people of good will will rise up with courage, take over the leadership, and open channels of communication between races, for I think that one of the tragedies of our whole struggle is that the South is still trying to live in monologue, rather than dialogue, and I am convinced that men hate each other because they fear each other. They fear each other because they don’t know each other and they don’t know each other because they don’t communicate with each other, and they don’t communicate with each other because they are separated from each other. And God grant that something will happen to open channels of communication, that something will happen because men of good will will rise to the level of leadership.”

—From an address by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa, October 15, 1962

- Fifty-six years after Dr. King’s speech, do you think communication between races has improved? Why or why not? You may give examples from your own experiences if you wish.
- What would you like to see happen in your community and in Maine to create the dialogue about which Dr. King spoke?
- In his address, Dr. King spoke of race as an important factor in dividing people. What additional factors are dividing people from one another today? Have people of good will risen to leadership and, as Dr. King hoped, used their leadership to open channels of communication? Please give at least one example of a leader who has helped different people communicate with one another.
- Dr. King phrases his hope as something God could grant. How do you see faith or spirituality contributing to the separation and division or reconciliation and dialogue of which he speaks?
- How are Dr. King's words relevant in today's world?

Completed works should be emailed in Word document form, with a completed cover sheet (second page of this document) attached, to erin.daugherty@maine.edu by **November 26** at 11:59 pm. The writer who is selected must be available to respond by email during winter break; previous award winners are not eligible. The winner will receive a \$500 prize, and be invited to read their piece at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Breakfast at Wells Conference Center on the morning of January 21, 2019.

Dorothy Clarke Wilson Peace Writing Prize: Cover Sheet

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Personal Information

Full Name

Date

Major

Year in School

Address

Phone Number

Biography

Please include a short (3-5 sentence) biography of yourself. If you are selected as the winner of this year's prize, your biography will be printed in the program for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Breakfast and posted on the Wilson Center's website. You may write your biography on the lines below, or in a separate Word document.
