



# • ESSAY CONTEST •

**Black History Month (BHM)** is a celebration of important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. The United States celebrates Black History month annually in the month of February.

Every year the U.S. Embassy through its Public Affairs Section commemorates BHM by conducting a series of educational activities focusing on the history and achievements of African Americans. This year the US Embassy Public Affairs Section will conduct an Essay Contest for Upper Six Level students in Zimbabwe to celebrate BHM.

The individual winners of the essay contest will receive prizes and certificates.

## Who is Eligible?

To be eligible for the essay contest, you must be in your Upper Sixth form at any school or college in Zimbabwe. Your essay must be one of two selected to represent entries from your school. Each participating school should submit two 500-word essays from 1 male and 1 female 'A' level student (single sex schools can send 2 participants of the same gender).

## How Do You Apply?

There Are Just Three Steps Involved:

### STEP 1)

Submit a 500-word essay to your school career counselor or Headmaster in response to the following:

Langston Hughes remains one of America's most celebrated African-American poets. Read his poem "Dream Deferred" below and give us your response.

Read his poem "Dream Deferred" below and give us your response.

How does this poem relate to you personally, to your community and to Zimbabwe?:

*What happens to a dream deferred?*

*Does it dry up  
like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
like a syrupy sweet?*

*Maybe it just sags  
like a heavy load.*

*Or does it explode?*



Langston Hughes  
1902-1967

### STEP 2)

Each school will select the best essays and must submit entries no later than:

**February 11, 2013**

to: U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section  
7th Floor Goldbridge, Eastgate,  
Cnr. 3rd Street and Robert Mugabe, HARARE

You can also email your essay to [harare@educationusa.info](mailto:harare@educationusa.info)

The subject of your email must be "Black History Month Essay Contest." Your essay submission must be within the body of the email along with your name and contact info.

\*\* Each essay must state the name, surname, school and grade level of the student.

### STEP 3)

A selection committee commissioned by the U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section will review all submissions and select 5 winning essays based on quality, uniqueness, and creativity of content.

The U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section reserves the right to publish winning essays. The U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe will present prizes to the winners at an event on February 28.



United States Embassy  
**Public Affairs Section**  
Communicating, Educating, Promoting Understanding

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