

The Black Church Essay Contest

Inspired by the Henry Louis Gates, Jr. film

The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song

Essay Due: March 5, 2021 by 11:59 p.m.

Who can participate?

Students in any middle and high school; and college undergraduate students

What do I need to do?

1. Watch the two-part series *The Black Church: This is Our Story, This is Our Song* on MPB Television at 8 p.m. February 16 and February 17. If you miss the series, you can watch it online until Feb. 28 on pbs.org and on the PBS Video App.
Write a 500-1,000-word essay about what you learned from watching, your greatest takeaway and/or how it made you feel.

Where do I send my essay?

Email essay to contest@mpbonline.org. The email subject should appear as: *Student Name – Grade – The Black Church Essay Contest* (i.e. Amy Brown – 4th Grade – The Black Church Essay Contest)

Criteria for The Black Church essay:

- Adequate word count
- Creativity in writing
- Original perspective
- Film content is accurately conveyed or referenced
- Impactful
- Clear thoughts
- Proper grammar, spelling, transitions, paragraph development
- Thought-provoking conclusion

How many winners will there be?

There will be three winners – one from middle school, one from high school and one from undergraduate.

What are the prizes?

Four passes to the Two Mississippi Museums which are the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and the Museum of Mississippi History as well as additional prizes.

Other important contest rules:

- Essay must be the student's original work
- All submissions become the property of Mississippi Public Broadcasting

[I've read the Guidelines and I'm ready to submit my essay!](#)