

# 5th Annual Ivory Tillman Black History Speech Competition

Hosted by



**About the Program:** February is dedicated as Black History Month. During this month, we honor the triumphs and struggles of famous African Americans. Notably, the history makers are highlighted because of their achievements during the civil rights movement and beyond. African Americans have made significant contributions to America and the rest of the world in the fields of science, politics, law, sports, the arts, entertainment, and many other fields.

While Black History Month is synonymous with prominent figures such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali, Jackie Robinson, Langston Hughes, and Maya Angelou, there are countless other African Americans who have made a profound impact in history. For example, self-made millionaire Madam C.J. Walker, world-renowned sculptor Edmonia Lewis, carbon filament light bulb inventor Lewis Howard Latimer, open-heart surgeon Daniel Hale Williams, science-fiction writer Octavia E. Butler, and "Father of Black History" Carter G. Woodson, all made noteworthy impacts in our history.

**Contest rules:** To apply for the black history speech competition, the contestant must be a **Kindergarten thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade student enrolled in any school in Pulaski County, Arkansas**. The contestant's parent or guardian's signature is required.

**Application open date:** January 16, 2024

**Deadline to register:** February 12, 2024 by 5:00 pm

**Question and Answer Zoom Meeting: Tuesday, February 16 at 7:00 pm** \*This session is open to contestants and parents. We will be available to assist with questions and the preparation of the speeches. A Zoom link will be sent once the

application is received.

## Competition Rules and Logistics

**Topic/Person:** Each contestant is free to select a famous African American of their choice. **\*However, the contestant may NOT choose (Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr., Rosa Parks, or Harriett Tubman).** Contestants must think outside the normal history lesson and compose a biographical speech based on the life and legacy of an African American.

**Length:** Speeches must be 2-3 minutes for K-8th, 3-5 minutes for 9th-12th.

**Speaking Note Cards:** ***Index cards or note cards may be used by elementary contestants ONLY. \*Note cards are NOT allowed for middle and high school level contestants.***

**Judging Criteria:** Contestants will be judged on **1. Content 2. Organization 3. Creativity 4. Public Speaking/Clarity 5. Overall Effectiveness**

Contestants **must perform** the biographical speech in front of a panel of judges, other contestants, and community members. Content should be relevant and in good taste. All speeches must be the original work of the student. **Contestants are encouraged to dress up and use props.**

### Grade Levels Classification:

1. K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grades
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grades
3. 6<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grades
4. 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grades

For additional information contact Kendrick Lusk at 254-258-9434.

Mail completed applications to: Kendrick Lusk, NAACP - Jacksonville Branch, PO Box 6444, Jacksonville, AR 72078, or email applications to [education@naacpjvark.org](mailto:education@naacpjvark.org)

## **5th Annual Ivory Tillman Black History Speech Competition**

**When: Saturday, February 24, 2024**

**Time: 2:00 pm CST**

**Location: Jacksonville Middle School, 2300 Linda Ln, Jacksonville, AR 72076**

**Arrival Time:** All contestants must arrive no later than 1:30 p.m. This will allow time for troubleshooting and preparation for contestants and judges.

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**5th Annual Ivory Tillman Black History Speech Competition  
Application**



**Due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024  
(Please Print)**

**Contestant Full name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent(s)/guardian names:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant Email address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Famous African American (topic):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contestant signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_