DSEA

2026 Human & Civil Rights Student Contest

History Remembers Those Who Acted

Contest Information: The Human and Civil Rights Contest is designed to help students explore the concept of equality, equity, and the rights of all people to live in a world free of discrimination, with dignity and respect.

Judging Criteria: Entries will be judged in each of the eligible grade and category divisions based on relevancy to the theme of this year's contest, creativity, accuracy, proofreading and organization of material. Contest judges are DSEA members who serve on the Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee.

Deadline: Entries must be emailed to HCR@dsea.org by 4 p.m. on Friday, March 27.

Winners: Student winners and their teachers will be notified between Thursday, April 30, and Tuesday, May 5. Awards presentations at the school of each winner will then be scheduled at the earliest convenience of classroom teachers and DSEA.

More Information: If you have any questions or need additional information about DSEA's HCR Contest, please contact Julie MacNeill by emailing Julie.MacNeill@dsea.org or by calling (302) 734-5834.

Grades K-12 Art Contest

Students may use any form of original handmade art to express this year's theme, including:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Metalwork
- Mixed media

Contestants must submit digital images of their artwork to HCR@dsea.org.

No group submissions are allowed. Entries that do not meet the format and eligibility requirements may be disqualified.

Grades 3-12 Writing Contest

Students may use any form of writing to express this year's theme, including:

- Essays
- Poetry
- Drama
- Fiction
- Songs
- Biographies

Entries must use Times New Roman 12 point font and be double spaced. Entries should be proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation. Standard citation of research materials must be included for essays and biographies where applicable.

No group submissions are allowed. Entries that do not meet the format and eligibility requirements may be disqualified.
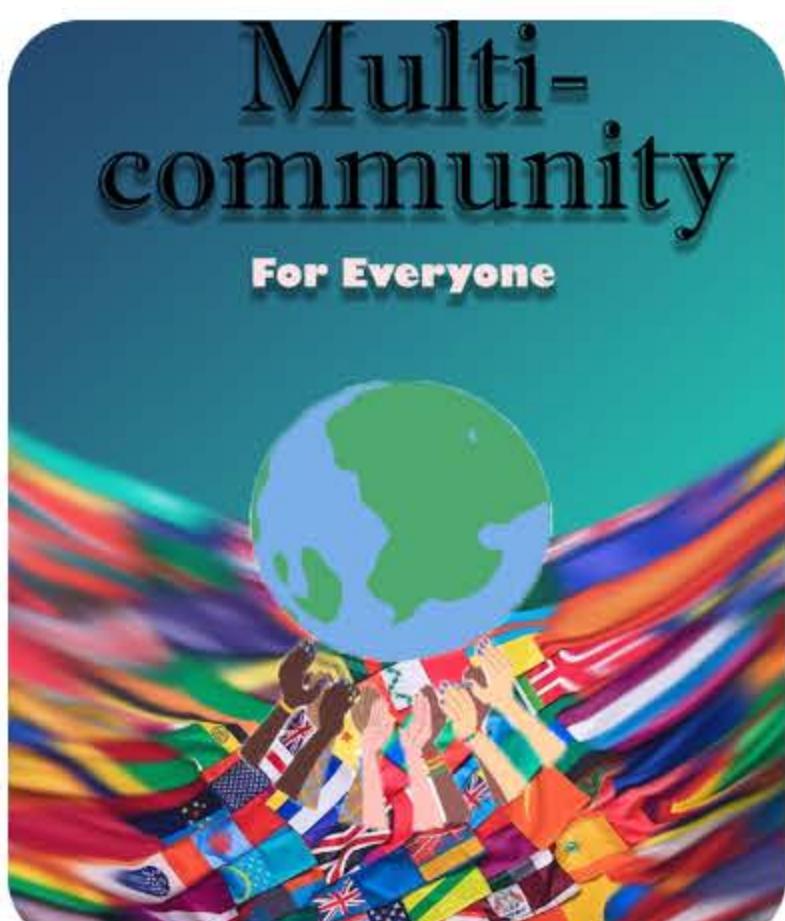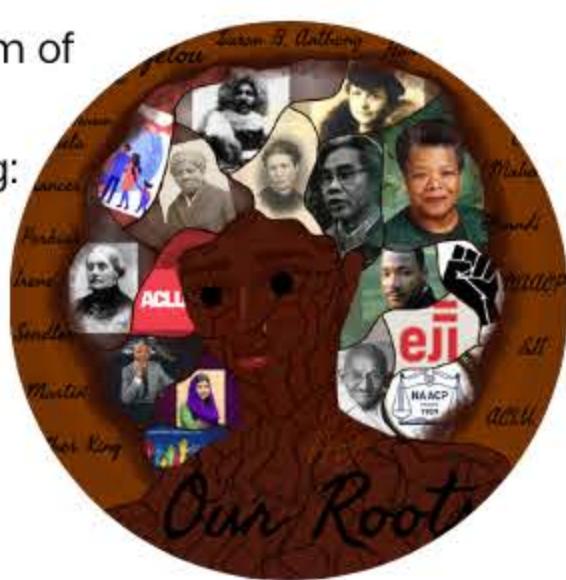
Grades K-12 Multimedia Contest

Students may use any form of digitally created imagery or multimedia to represent this year's theme, including:

- Computer graphics
- Videos
- Slideshows
- PowerPoint presentation
- Animation
- Instillation

Entries are limited to 3 minutes in length. Entries should be proofread for grammar, spelling, and punctuation where applicable. PowerPoint presentations must include standard citation of research materials and a script.

No group submissions are allowed. Entries that do not meet the format and eligibility requirements may be disqualified.