

**Washington Health System  
Teen Outreach  
Black History Month  
Essay Contest**



The Washington Health System Teen Outreach is proud to announce its 14th essay contest celebrating Black History

***Join us to hear the essays and  
discover the winner at our Arts Night!***  
**Thursday, February 15, 2024, 6—8 PM**  
**Common Ground Teen Center**  
**(92 N. Main Street, Washington, PA)**

Sponsored by  WASHINGTON HEALTH SYSTEM

**First place essays will published  
in the Observer Reporter newspaper!**

Contact person: Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski—412 877 4906



# Washington Health System Teen Outreach

## Black History Month

### 2024 Essay Contest Rules

1. **Who is Eligible:** 7th—12th grade students in Washington County Schools.
2. **Contest Topic:** The idea of a Black History Month is complicated. Our theme this year is once more **Black Health and Wellness**. Essays should discuss this theme **or** the importance of three things: Respect for black history all year, why there should not be a separate black history month, and what it means to be an ally. Students may write about any (or all) of those concepts or create another topic dealing with respect for black history. The key content should be student-driven.
3. **Length of Essay:** The essay must be between 500—750 words. Plagiarism (direct copy from another document) or use of AI are not acceptable and will disqualify the entry.
4. **Identification:** Entries must be submitted as a Microsoft Word or Goggle Doc document, clearly labeled with the author's name, parent/guardian name, grade, school, home address, email, and contact phone number of the author.
5. **Submission:** Essays must be submitted electronically to [podmj@healthyteens.com](mailto:podmj@healthyteens.com).
6. **Deadline:** Entries must be received no later than midnight on **Friday, February 9th**.
7. **Prizes:** Prizes will be given to two groups—9—12th graders and 7-8th graders. First place prize is \$100 and second place is \$50. Winning first place essays will be printed in the Observer Reporter Newspaper.
9. **Notification:** Winners will be notified at the Winter Art Night of the Common Ground Teen Center (92 N. Main Street), Thursday, February 15, 2024. Art Night is open to the public. All essayists should attend. Parents are welcome.
10. **Winner Responsibilities:** Winners are expected to attend and read their essays on February 15th.

**Questions? Contact Dr. Mary Jo Podgurski—412 877 4906**