



Chicago Public Schools, American Bottling Company and Roosevelt University

# 2012 Black History Month Essay Competition

Open to all CPS students, grades 9-12. Essays are due at your school by February 21, 2012.

Win a Computer - Digital Camera - Scholarship!

## INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

### Prizes:

- **Grand Prizes:** Four (4) laptop computers and printers awarded to each of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students responsible for the top essay in their grade level.
- **Second Place Prizes:** Four (4) digital cameras and photo printers awarded to each of the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students responsible for the second place essay in their grade level.
- **Scholarships:** A \$5,000 Roosevelt University scholarship will be awarded to each of the Grand Prize winning students. Recipients will hold rights to their scholarships until they graduate high school. Students using the scholarship must meet Roosevelt University admission criteria.
- The winners, their families and school representatives will be invited to an awards banquet.

### Rules:

- Grades 9-10: essay length 500-600 words. Grades 11-12: essay length 600-700 words. Essays must be written in English.
- A completed Entry Form must accompany each submitted essay.
- Submissions must be anonymous; essays with the student's name or the school's name written on them will be disqualified. All identifying information must be on the Entry Form and stapled to the essay, not written on the essay itself. (See Entry Form below.)
- Essays typed on a computer must be in a 12-point font size and font must be easy to read (no bold fonts).
- Handwritten essays must be legible, on plain white or lined paper, either printed or in cursive.
- The title of the essay must be written at the top of the first page.
- Essays will be judged on originality and creativity, cultural knowledge and research, organizational structure and clarity, as well as spelling and grammar. Essays will not be returned to the schools and it is suggested that students and schools each keep a copy.
- **Give your essay to the competition coordinator at your school no later than February 21, 2012. The school will select the best essay from each grade level to be entered in the competition for judging.** (Instructions for Schools available at [www.cps.edu](http://www.cps.edu).)
- The decisions of the judges are final. Essays will not be returned to the schools.
- Questions? Ask your school competition coordinator or contact Babette Klein at [bsklein@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:bsklein@cps.k12.il.us) or 773-553-2859.

**Essay Topic:** George Washington Carver, African-American scientist (1864-1943) said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all these." (1) What events in Carver's life could have made him say this? and (2) Describe a situation in your own life that relates to these words and how you think it will influence your future behavior.

CUT HERE

**Entry Form** (Cut and attach to your essay. Please print clearly!)

CUT HERE

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**2012 Black History Month Essay Competition**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address (if you have one) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that the prizes will be distributed as stated on the Information for Students sheet:

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_