The Fierce Urgency of Now

Young Writers Project and Dartmouth College invite youths of all ages to celebrate the life, work and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special writing challenge due on Martin Luther King Day, January 16, 2017; a live workshop and presentation event on Friday, February 3, 2017; and a feature in The Voice digital magazine. Here’s how to participate:

1. CHALLENGE – Due January 16, 2017

Visit youngwritersproject.org/node/12067 to post your response to the following special MLK Celebration challenge:

On April 4, 1967, Martin Luther King, in protesting the Vietnam War, said that the time for action is NOW: "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late."
These words have since inspired people to demand all sorts of change and action... before it's too late. Young Writers Project is seeking nationwide submissions – poems, stories, spoken word pieces, music, digital stories, short narrative essays – around the theme of civic and community action for a special issue of The Voice. What sorts of issues in your world require immediate action? Submit original words, audio, video and/or images.

Anyone who responds to the challenge will be entered into a selection pool for a special feature in The Voice digital magazine and live feature presentation of his or her work on Friday, February 3. Any participant age 21 or younger is encouraged to create an account on youngwritersproject.org in order to submit a response, but college-age participants may also email their submissions to Susan at sreid@youngwritersproject.org. Please use "MLK challenge" as your subject heading. Teachers are welcome to submit their students’ responses by creating an account on youngwritersproject.org.

Please note: This is NOT an academic essay contest. Essays are, of course, welcome as part of the submissions, but they will not be given preference over other types of submissions.

2. SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOP & OPEN MIC

Sign up link: youngwritersproject.org/MLK2017/signup

Sign up online to attend the writing workshop and/or participate in the open mic at Dartmouth College on Friday, February 3, 2017. These events are open to all, but geared for youth and young adults ages 12-21. Workshop from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Venue: The Howe Library, 13 E. South Street, Hanover, NH. Open mic and feature presentation to begin at 6:30. Venue: Hood Downtown, 53 Main Street, Hanover, NH.

3. WORKSHOP

Author Jo Knowles leads writers through fun poetry and story writing prompts that explore the idea of "the fierce urgency of now." Snacks for all! Advance sign up for the workshop is strongly encouraged to help us determine the number and age range of participants. Time: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Venue: The Howe Library, 13 E. South Street, Hanover, NH.

4. OPEN MIC & FEATURE PRESENTATION

An open mic will give anyone a chance to share relevant work before a feature presentation of best pieces selected from responses to the special MLK Celebration challenge. FREE food and socializing to follow. Advance sign up for the open mic is strongly encouraged to help us determine the number and age range of participants. Time and place: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Hood Downtown gallery, 53 Main Street in Hanover, NH.

5. PUBLICATION

Best words, audio, video and images submitted in response to the special MLK Celebration challenge will be featured in The Voice digital magazine. This issue will also include excellent comments left on challenge responses, video and other digital extras.