

Haitian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

[HMF]

Request for Essay Writings Invitational (RFEW)

Pierre Toussaint Essay Writings Contest Award Opportunity

Request for Essay Writings (RFEW)
National Essay Writing Contest
Sponsor: Haitian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

Haitian Memorial Foundation, Inc. [HMF] identifies and creates commemorative markers that locate Haitian history, historic persons and presence by funding and maintaining public art, monuments, and sites of consciousness in the built and natural environment that recognize the contributions of Haiti and Haitian descendants throughout the global community.

BACKGROUND

The **Haitian Memorial Foundation [HMF]** seeks the national involvement of all American High School students to enter an essay writing competition on the exemplary Haitian Pierre Toussaint.

ESSAY CONTEST

The intent of this writing competition is to both promote and memorialize the **Venerable Pierre Toussaint**, the formerly enslaved African from Haiti/Saint-Domingue who was brought to colonial New York in 1787 by his French master. A devout Catholic, the freed hairdresser performed numerous charitable, philanthropic, and even heroic acts. Currently, he is being considered for

Canonization by the Vatican. Should **Mr. Toussaint** attain this status, he would be the second American Saint and the first Saint of African-descent from the Americas.

Essay can be submitted in either English or French and must be a maximum of 1,500 words. *Essay* should evoke a solid understanding and appreciation of this great Haitian man who, under unfavorable circumstances, did not allow his enslavement to shackle his mind, his soul and more importantly, his human spirit. The writing must capture the ennobling and reverential characteristics that made **Pierre Toussaint** such an important spiritual and possible global figure.

ESSAY CONTEST AWARD

- **AWARD PLAQUE FOR WRITING EXCELLENCE**

This certificate will be presented by **HAITIAN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, Inc.** at the annual Award Ceremony.

- **(3) PRIZE LEVELS**

1ST place winner: \$ 1,250.00

2nd place winner: \$ 500.00

3rd place winner: \$ 250.00

ELIGIBILITY/SELECTION CRITERIA

The *Essay Writing* competition invitation is open to all High School Students throughout the United States. All students must be sure to include their name and contact information and also disclose the name and address of their High School and its Principal.

SELECTION PROCESS

A Review Committee consisting of **HMF Board members** and other historians, writers, academics, and even members of the ecclesiastic church will convene to make a selection on certain writings.

HOW TO APPLY

You can register either via fax or by downloading the application on the HMF website www.haitianmemorialfoundation.org You can also request a hard copy of RFEW by writing to **HMF** at 435 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10705.

RFEW ISSUED:

October 15, 2009

DEADLINE:

April 30, 2010

AWARD LETTER DATE:

May 24, 2010

Completed Essay Writings Should Be Submitted to:

Haitian Memorial Foundation, Inc.

435 South Broadway, Suite #1

Yonkers, NY 10705

Tel: (914) 751-3303 Fax: (914) 751-3304

Email: HaitianMemorialFoundation@gmail.com

Web: www.haitianmemorialfoundation.org

RECOMMENDED READING:

- **L'Autre Toussaint: Un Noir d'Après la Revolution** by Ellen Tarry (French Publication)
- **The Other Toussaint: A Black man After the Revolution** by Ellen Tarry (English Publication)