

NAACP ART and WRITING CONTEST

THEME: COMMEMORATING THE 1866 MEMPHIS MASSACRE: **WHY SHOULD WE REMEMBER?**

I. CONTEST DESCRIPTION

All 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students in Shelby County are invited to submit to the Memphis NAACP one entry in the following contest categories: original essay, original poem or original art. All contest entries must explore the theme of why we should remember the 1866 Memphis Massacre. Provided we receive at least five entries for each category, the NAACP will award a **\$500 prize** to one contest winner from each of the three categories. If we do not receive at least five entries in each of the separate categories, then we reserve the right to combine entries for all three categories of the contest and select one overall first-place winner (\$500 prize), one overall second-place winner (\$250 prize) and one overall third-place winner (\$100 prize) from the combined entries.

II. CONTEST DATES

The Memphis NAACP will **begin accepting contest entries on March 14, 2016 and will stop accepting contest entries on April 11, 2016 at 5:00PM**. All contest entries must be received in the Memphis NAACP office by the contest deadline of April 11, 2016 at 5PM. *Any entries received after that date and time will be disqualified from the contest.* Contest winners will be announced before April 29, 2016.

III. CONTEST RESOURCES

Contestants are encouraged to learn about the 1866 Memphis Massacre that ultimately helped to ensure the adoption of the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Approximately 150 years ago and just one year after the Civil War ended, the African-American community in Memphis was attacked. Many African-Americans were killed and assaulted during the attack that was later described as a massacre. News of the massacre was reported nationwide and caused three separate governmental groups to launch official investigations into the massacre—the Freedman’s Bureau, the U.S. Army and the United States Congress. Testimony from many of the victims was transcribed and preserved. These primary sources can be consulted today.

Contestants are encouraged to research the available primary and secondary resources on the 1866 Memphis Massacre. The following are just a few examples of resources that should be available online or at a local library:

A) The University of Memphis has a website (www.memphis.edu/memphis-massacre) dedicated to providing information about the 1866 Memphis Massacre. This can be a good place to start your research. Because new resource information will be added periodically under the website’s “Resources” and “Schoolroom” tabs, you may want to check this website often while preparing your contest entry.

B) Primary Sources

1) The full report of the United States Congressional Select Committee of the 39th Congress can be found on the University of Memphis’s website commemorating the 1866 Memphis Massacre at the following address: www.memphis.edu/memphis-massacre. Click on the “Resources” tab on the left side of the page and then select the “report” link in the “Take a few minutes to dip into this report” sentence in the next to the last line of the paragraph. You should be directed to the Library of Congress Website where you can scroll through the original 1866 report.

2) The Freedmen's Bureau records are available at www.freedmensbureau.com. You may click on the “Tennessee” tab on the left and then select the available documents that you want to review concerning the 1866 Memphis Massacre.

C) Secondary Sources

1) “Community, Class and Race In The Memphis Riot of 1866” by Altina L. Waller, *Journal of Social History*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Winter 1984), pp. 233-246, Oxford University Press

2) A Massacre in Memphis: The Race Riot That Shook The Nation One Year After The Civil War, by Stephen V. Ash, Hill and Wang (2013).

ADDITIONAL CONTEST RULES

In addition to the rules stated above, the following rules apply:

- All contest entries must be accompanied by one completed *Contest Entry Form* for each contest entry. This form can be found on pages five and six of this document.
- All entries must be original works completed entirely by the eligible contestant. An eligible contestant is an 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student who attends a school in Shelby County, Tennessee.
- Students may submit entries in more than one contest category, but may submit *no more than one* entry in each of the three contest categories.
- Essays must be typed using no smaller than a 12-point font and be double spaced. All essays must be at least two pages long, but no essay shall be longer than four pages.
- Poems should be no longer than two pages using no smaller than 12-point type. There is no minimum length for poems.
- Art entries may be accepted from any of the following categories: *posters, paintings, sketches, carvings and sculptures*. However, art entries shall be no larger than the size of a standard poster and no heavier than ten pounds. Each art *Contest Entry Form* should contain a brief description of the art and how it relates to the contest theme. A space has been provided for this description on the second page of the attached *Contest Entry Form*.
- Entries shall not contain any hazardous or dangerous materials.
- All contest entries shall be delivered to the Memphis NAACP's office at **588 Vance Avenue, Memphis, TN 38126**. Essays and poems may be mailed as long as they are *received* before the contest deadline. Original works of art should be personally delivered to the Memphis NAACP Office. If you plan to deliver a contest entry, you should call the office at **(901) 521-1343** before your arrival.
- Essays and poems will *not* be returned to the contestant at the end of the contest. Those who submit original artwork will have the opportunity to retrieve their original

artwork from the Memphis NAACP office between May 9, 2016 and May 13, 2016 during regular office hours. Any original artwork that remains in the Memphis NAACP office after May 13, 2016 will be deemed the property of the Memphis NAACP.

- By submitting a contest entry, each contestant gives the Memphis NAACP the right to use copies, photos, or other reproductions of his/her contest entries in NAACP promotional materials and to display those copies, photos or reproductions of the contestant's entries at future meetings and events.
- The contest winners will be notified using the personal contact information that the contestant provides on the *Contest Entry Form*. The names of the winners will be posted on the Memphis NAACP's website and may be used in future promotional material.
- The decisions of the Memphis NAACP as to the winners of this contest shall be final.
- The Memphis NAACP will not be liable for *any* loss, damage or destruction to any contest entry; including, but not limited to, any loss, damage or destruction caused by any negligent act, malfeasance or act of nature.

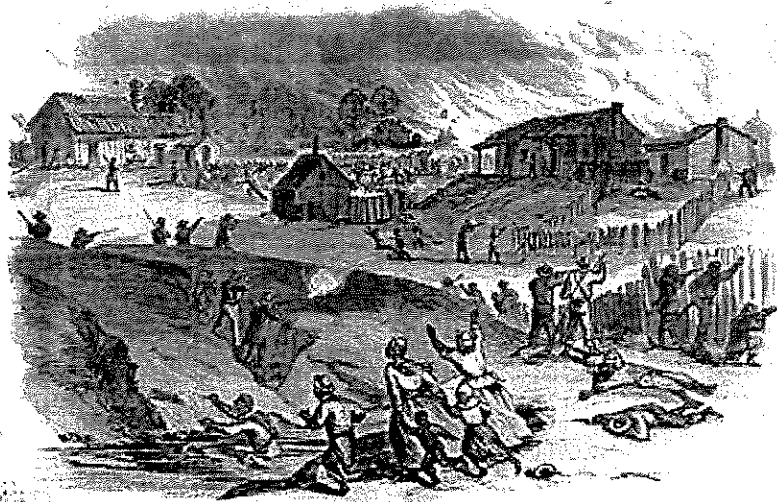


Illustration of an attack on black Memphians. *Harper's Weekly*, 26 May 1866

CONTEST ENTRY FORM

CONTESTANT'S NAME: _____
 First Name M.I. Last Name

ADDRESS: _____
 Street Address

City State Zip Code

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

SCHOOL: _____
 Name

City State

GRADE LEVEL: _____ Age: _____

CONTEST CATEGORY (*Circle one*): ESSAY POETRY
 ART (State type of art): _____

(Signatures required)

We have read the contest rules in their entirety and agree to be bound by them.

Contestant *(Please print.)*

Contestant's Parent/Legal Guardian *(Please print.)*

X _____
Contestant's signature

X _____
Contestant's Parent's /Legal Guardian's signature

Description of artwork: _____

Description of how the art relates to the contest theme: _____

To be completed by Memphis NAACP:

Date entry received

If art, date art returned to contestant

Control Number: _____