



Meet the World Image Solutions, LLC
PO Box 8803
New Orleans, LA 70182
(504) 505-5894

Greetings:

My name is Rhonda M. Lawson, founder and president of Meet the World Image Solutions. Since launching my firm in January 2017, my priority has always been to promote literacy throughout the city of New Orleans. According to the New Orleans Community Data Center, the city has a 26 percent low-literacy rate among 18- to 64-year-olds, compared to 23 percent nationally. It is my goal to help change that conversation.

One of the ways I'm doing that is hosting literary events throughout the year that both support local authors and promote literacy programs throughout the city. Last year, my inaugural event, the New Orleans Black History Month Literary Weekend, enabled us to promote eight authors and donate books to both the Norman Mayer Library and St. Mary's Academy. We also hosted a free writers' workshop at the library, a student information session at SMA, a literary brunch, and the premiere of the stage play *Cheatin' in the Next Room*, based on my 2004 bestselling novel of the same name.

In 2019, we aim to continuing building on this event to make it even bigger, including re-launching our essay contest for eighth and ninth graders. The winners will read their essays at our jazz brunch on Feb. 23. We will also launch the first Meet the World Image Solutions scholarship, which will be awarded in April.

Included in this letter are the essay contest application and the tentative itinerary for the Black History Month Literary Weekend. We ask that you send the application out to students in Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Tammany Parish. Additionally, we would like to issue an official invitation to your area high schools to be a part of this year's writers' workshop. We believe a field trip such as this will be beneficial to your students because they will be able to meet and speak with actual published authors and entrepreneurs, hear from motivational speakers with specially tailored age-appropriate messages, and understand why writing is an important piece of African American history. Last year, the students of West Jefferson High School attended, and many are still talking about the experience.

For more information on Meet the World Image Solutions, please visit www.mtwimagesolutions.com. You may also visit our Facebook and Instagram pages. We thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,
Rhonda M. Lawson
Meet the World Image Solutions, LLC
Founder/President



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Black History Month Literary Weekend

Tentative Itinerary

Feb. 22, 9 am

Writers Workshop TBD
Author Panel
Special Guest Speaker: Felicia Young, Higher Minds of Education, LLC

Feb. 22, 2 pm

School Visit TBD
Author Panel (Authors to be announced soon)

Feb. 23, 10:30 am

Jazz Brunch Treme Market Branch
Guest Speaker: Dr. Lisa Aubrey, author of *In Search of Bimbia* and professor at
Arizona State University
Essay Contest Winners
Spoken Word Slam

Feb. 23, 7:30 pm

Night of Fashion Treme Market Branch
Special Entertainment
Featuring designers across the Gulf Coast



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ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

The purpose of the Meet the World Image Solutions Black History Month Essay Contest is to help awaken a new love for African American history and culture in our youth. Additionally, it will help our students to exercise critical writing skills that will be needed as they progress in their academic careers, and ultimately their professional careers. The students in the New Orleans Public School System are some of the best and the brightest, so we are confident that our judges will be in for a treat!

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Completed Essay Contest Application

B. 500-word essay on one of the below topics:

8th Grade: What Black History figure do you most admire, and why?

9th Grade: Why is Black History Month still relevant for this generation?

Incomplete application packages will not be considered.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications and essays must be received by Feb. 8, 2019 for consideration. To enter, complete the attached application and email it along with your essay to the following email address: info@mtwimagesolutions.com

Essays must not exceed 500 words, and must be typed double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Essays will be judged on originality, creativity, and presentation (including grammar and spelling). First place winners at each level will receive a \$100 prize and will be invited to read their essays at the Black History Month Literary Weekend Jazz Brunch on Feb. 23, 2019.

We thank you in advance for your participation, and look forward to reading your essay.



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ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION

Student Name _____

Age _____ Grade _____

School _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # _____ (home) _____

(Cell) _____

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Date _____

Date _____

Release Authorization

I hereby grant permission to use my name, comments and picture for public relations, advertising and/or any other lawful purposes, and I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished version(s) including written copy that may be created in conjunction therewith. I understand that information from my scholarship application and essay submitted may be used.

Applicant Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

NOTE: Applications and accompanying materials will not be returned to applicants.