

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: WE NEED 2 HEAR YOUR VOICE!

RAP/SPOKEN WORD CONTEST

Help CENJC* to ADVANCE JUSTICE using the power of Spoken Word to inspire us and help us move forward in overcoming systemic racism.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd Prizes - \$200, \$150, \$100

African American writer and activist James Baldwin once stated, “Ignorance allied with power is the most ferocious enemy of justice.” The path to a different America requires confronting our country’s racist past and present. Reckoning with this truth creates a new narrative that opens our world to transformation. In contributing to the truth through our own creative storytelling, we confront and resist the lie of racism.

In your original spoken word piece, CENJC invites you to share your personal response to recent powerful events. Suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

*Police and white vigilante killings of unarmed Black people including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Michael Brown and so many others.

*The strong, renewed pushes for change caused by these killings.

*The incarceration of African Americans at a rate ten times that of whites for identical offenses.

*White supremacists given a wink and a “thumbs up” by prominent politicians.

*The marginalization of LGBTQ and Native American communities.

*Disregard for the safeguarding of the environment.

*The unequal effect of the pandemic on communities of color.

Tell us how you feel about these situations. What are you seeing & hearing, experiencing, reading and/or imagining?

Feel free to create fiction or non-fiction. Your work may be poetry or prose, rhyming or non-rhyming.

How to enter:

1. Send your **written piece** and your 3 to 10 minute **video recording** to contest@endnewjimcrownj.org by January 30, 2021.
2. On your **video** slowly say your **name** and your **email address** and announce, "This is my original work which I alone wrote."
3. On your **manuscript** give the **title** of your piece, your first and last **name**, your **email address**, and your **phone number**. Include your **school name**, and the name of your **teacher, youth leader, or clergyperson** if they helped or encouraged you. (Someone else may help you edit & proofread your manuscript.)
4. Be as ORIGINAL as possible. Consider telling one or more stories. Use concrete images, sights, sounds, feelings and facts.
5. When making your video, keep in mind that the power of our words can be enhanced by a great performance. Imagine that the camera is your best friend, take a deep breath, relax, speak slowly and clearly, and have fun!

Please note: Copies of this form are available at the CENJC website. Contact: <http://www.endnewjimcrownj.org>. The contest is open to all High School students.

Feel free to invite your friends!

* **CENJC- the Campaign to End the New Jim Crow – Greater Trenton Chapter** spreads awareness of mass incarceration and the racism ingrained in the criminal justice system of our country and works to effect change in public policy to bring about racial justice.