

ERASE Racism in partnership with SCOPE Education Services presents

# RAISE YOUR VOICE ESSAY CONTEST



**THEME:**  
Structural Racism and  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
(DEI) Initiatives in Schools



***FOUR (4) winners will each receive a \$500 scholarship!***

Contest is for public high school seniors on Long Island who have plans to attend a two- or four-year college or accredited vocational program. Official proof of enrollment to a college or program (verification form or letter) must be provided to receive award.

## **DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024**

Across the country, schools are addressing issues of Structural Racism and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in vastly different ways. (Definitions for these terms can be found by scanning the QR code).

Tell us, in your own words, and based on at least one personal experience and/or observation how these issues are being addressed in your school, and how these issues might be taught and addressed more constructively. Have you witnessed any specific approaches? (Think about things like classroom discussions, curriculum changes, or student-led events.)

What broader strategies could your school district, or even the nation as a whole, implement to achieve a truly inclusive and equitable learning environment?

The best essays will showcase and be judged on:

- **Strong content:** Share meaningful insights and personal experiences.
- **Clear expression:** Communicate your ideas effectively and persuasively.
- **Originality:** Bring a fresh perspective to the conversation.

Raise your voice and be heard! We're eager to learn from you!

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Structural racism:** refers to the ways in which societies foster racial discrimination through mutually reinforcing systems of housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media, and health care. These patterns and practices in turn reinforce discriminatory beliefs, values, and distribution of resources.

**Diversity:** refers to having a wide range of demographics including race, gender, sexual identity, age, ability level, cognitive learning differences, education and economic background.

**Equity:** requires that each person is treated fairly and has the resources they need to be successful; it includes a changing structures of power and privilege so that disparities of historically marginalized groups are eliminated.

**Inclusion:** is achieved when everyone, despite any differences, is treated with respect and care, and are made to feel welcome, valued, heard.

**DEI** are organizational frameworks that seek to promote the equitable treatment and full participation of all people, especially groups that have historically been excluded, under-resourced, and/or subject to discrimination.