### **One Philly Black History Oratorical Showcase Introduction Letter**

Dear School Leaders,

We are thrilled to announce The **One Philly Black History Oratorical Showcase**, a city-wide showcase designed to engage students in the study and presentation of African American History. This exciting opportunity will empower students across Philadelphia to bring pivotal moments and figures from Black history to life through the performance of iconic speeches and poems.

**Theme:
"Our Voices Matter: Speaking Up for What’s Right"**

**How to Participate:**

1. **Select a Piece**: Students will choose from a curated list of significant speeches or poems by influential Black figures, provided in the attached document.
2. **Prepare a Performance**: Schools will host internal competitions to select one student representative. (optional)
3. **Submit a Video**: School representatives must submit a video recording of their performance using the provided submission form (attached). Students will need to memorize and perform selected pieces.
4. **Compete at the City Level**: The top 21 submissions (7 from elementary, middle, and high school levels) will compete in the city-wide showcase.

**Timeline:**

* **Submission Opens:** January 10, 2025
* **Submission Deadline:** February 13, 2025
* **City-Wide Showcase Event:** February 28, 2025, at the Mayor’s Reception Room, City Hall 5:30pm - 8:30 pm

**Awards and Prizes:**Finalists will receive certificates of achievement, and top performers will earn special awards, such as:

* Summer internship opportunities
* Trophies or plaques
* Photo with the Mayor
* Certificates of achievement
* School supplies
* Philly based swag items and merch
* Tickets to Philly museums, sporting events and concerts
* School Dress down day and pizza party (elementary and middle)
* Chance to meet a local celebrity
* Tickets to attend cultural events or workshops
* Highlight winners' recitation speeches on the School District and City Website
* Offer opportunities for winners to speak at community events or introduce the Mayor and more

**Submission Guidelines:**Please ensure student performances adhere to the time limits:

* **Elementary (4th-5th):** Up to 3 minutes
* **Middle School (6th-8th):** Up to 5 minutes
* **High School (9th-12th):** 5 to 7 minutes

**Resources and Support:**

* Written versions of each selected speech or poem are included to assist students in their preparation.
* Teachers are encouraged to coach and mentor students.

**Judging Criteria:**Participants will be evaluated on content accuracy, delivery, emotional engagement, and their ability to connect with the audience.

[Evaluation Rubric](https://docs.google.com/document/d/11qk8rywQXAJXgyvU3_qzjljkq6q5TDc5VbPL5hT163E/edit?usp=sharing)

Attached, you will find the following:

1. [**Contest Rules and Submission Form**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIOzqZo_m65eWP44WseMuBUFkc1wkc-TLFgjm0EAGvddIpGA/viewform?usp=pp_url)
2. [**Flyer for Distribution**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-n4QVXWG2r0be2NEomO4HjCj1Ag0OG_j/view?usp=drive_link)
3. [**List of Approved Speeches and Poems**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1t3HjbCpJ4QBxDZg9F9Sv8gM44L60747dk3LLvADqmwY/edit?usp=sharing)

We look forward to seeing your students shine as they share the power of African American History through their performances. This inaugural event is an opportunity to inspire students, celebrate history, and strengthen civic engagement.

If any questions, concerns, or questions, please contact Ismael Jimenez at ijimenez@philasd.org