



The Center for African and African American Studies
Southern University at New Orleans

presents

2009 Black History Month Essay Contest

Theme: Quest for Black Citizenship in the Americas

Essay Question

By looking through your family's legacy (mother or father's side), choose a family member who preceded you and describe how their "quest" towards Black citizenship has affected your own quest? How have the negative and positive experiences shaped your understanding and feelings about your national identity and patriotism?

Please be sure to clarify which side of the family you are discussing (maternal or paternal) and the circumstances and racial adversities impacted their understanding and success in the Americas. Please approach these questions by using the experiences of named ancestors/descendants and knowing the accurate definition of *citizenship*. *The Americas* consists of the continents of North, Central and South America.

Prize

The top two essay winners will win either a Maternal or Paternal Lineage DNA Kit provided by AfricanAncestry.com, an African Ancestry t-shirt, African Ancestry Guide to: West & Central Africa.

The Center for African and African American Studies will follow the winners and their families personally on their journey in discovering their stolen African legacy.

Contest rules: **Essays must be submitted to The Center by 12 noon February 18, 2009, in Administration Building 209.** In order to participate, essays must be 700-1000 words, typed and double spaced, grammatically free of errors, & grammatically and syntactically sound. Participants must be enrolled as a student for the current term/semester. Entries by faculty/staff are prohibited. If chosen as a winner, you agree to allow The Center for African and African American Studies to document your journey from taking DNA tests to receiving your results. You also agree that The CAAAS is not responsible for any abnormalities the test results show and is not liable for any financial responsibility beyond the cost of the DNA kit from AfricanAncestry.com.

This essay contest is made possible by The Center for African and African American Studies, a Title III program, and the Southern University at New Orleans Lyceum Committee.

For more information, contact Melonee Griggs, Program Coordinator, at 504.286.5004.

