

### **High School Prompt**

The role of the Black family has been described by some as a “microcosm of the entire [Black/African-American] race. According to the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, “Not only are individual [Black] families diasporic, but Africa and the diaspora itself have been long portrayed as the [Black] family at large.” Please discuss the image of the Black family as a symbol of the African Diaspora, and the idea of the Diaspora as the “Black family at large.” What does it mean for the story of African migration and diaspora (that is, the dispersion, movement, and/or scattering of people from their original homeland) to be viewed as one large family?

### **Middle School Prompt**

The Banks of Bel Air... The Johnsons of *Blackish* and the Johnsons of *The Color Purple* ... The Proud Family ... The Youngers of *A Raisin in the Sun* ... Black families in books and movies have given us important images of the Black community, and have played important roles in helping us understand Black life in America. What example of the Black family in a book, television show, or movie has had the greatest inspiration for you, and why?

### **Elementary School Prompt**

“We are family!” Family has always been important to the Black/African-American community. Why is family important to you? What does it mean for your community (you friends and neighbors) to be like your family?

## Black History Month Essay Contest Judging Rubric

Points	Content	Clarity	Coherence & Structure	Creativity
0	No clear connection to the topic; the writer seems to lack the ability to comprehend or respond meaningfully to the topic	The writer is unfocused, illogical, incoherent, and/or disorganized	The essay is disorganized and underdeveloped, providing little or no relevant support, and has serious/persistent errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics that severely interfere with meaning	The writer presents no original or creative elements
1	The writer seems confused about the topic, or generally does not cover meaningful aspects of the topic	The writer lacks focus and coherence, and often fails to communicate their ideas in their essay	The essay is poorly organized, provides generalized supports and examples, and has an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage and mechanics that sometimes interfere with meaning	The writer presents limited original elements and creativity, relying too heavily on pre-existing ideas
2	The writer addresses the topic but lacks depth or clarity in many aspects their writing	The writer shows limited depth in their essay, approaching the subject simplistically or with repetitiveness	The essay is adequately organized, generally supports ideas with reasons and examples, and generally demonstrates control of grammar, usage, and mechanics	The writer presents some original elements, but lacks creativity
3	The writer addresses the topic clearly, but lacks focus or clarity in few aspects of their writing	The writer has shown some depth and complexity of thought in their essay	The essay is well organized, provides appropriately supported reasons and examples, and has few errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	The writer demonstrates many original and creative elements which add to the narrative
4	The writer addresses the topic clearly and effectively, with strong points made regarding multiple aspects of the theme	The writer explores the issue thoughtfully and in depth throughout their essay	The essay shows strong organization, strong support and examples, and is generally free from errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics	The writer demonstrates many original and creative elements that surprise and delight the reader