Theme: ***"A Century of Black History Commemorations"***
Target Group: 9th – 12th grade High School Students in Los Angeles County
Submission Deadline: February 27, 2026 ~~ Awards Presentation: March 15, 2026

The ***2026 National Black History Month theme*** is ***"A Century of Black History Commemorations****."* This is the official U.S. theme designated by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) to honor 100 years since Black History Month began as Negro History Week in 1926.

PROMPT: Reflect on how Black History Month helps you understand your own identity, values, and goals as a young person in 2026. How does learning about a century of Black history commemorations influence your perspective on leadership, history, and community engagement?

GENERAL RULES

- All entries should include your name, complete mailing address, telephone number, and email address.
- Please provide the school you attend as well as what grade you are in.
- The essay should be *a minimum* of 750 words.
- It should be typed 12pt., Times New Roman, double-spaced, *with pages numbered*.
- Only the winners will be notified of the results due to the number of entries.
- There is no entry fee for this contest.
- Prizes will be awarded to the winners via check.
- Winners are expected to attend the awards presentation on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Tabahani Book Circle's *Gem of the Ocean* Be Well Educated Scholarship Theater Fundraiser.

JUDGING

- A panel of qualified judges will complete the judging process.
- Judges will not discuss or compare essays until all essays have been judged.
- Judges will use a predetermined rubric to score essays.

Upon submission, the essay becomes Tabahani Book Circle's exclusive property for advertising and promotional use.

Please submit your essay to Denise K. Dowdy
at tabahanibookcircle@gmail.com

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