



# 2019 Breaking Barriers Essay Contest



## Write About a Barrier You Have Faced DEADLINE: MARCH 14, 2019

Each year, April 15 marks the anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball in 1947. Honoring this important event, the **Breaking Barriers Essay Contest** is a chance for diverse students of all backgrounds in grades 4–9 to share their personal stories about how they use Jackie Robinson's Nine Values to face their own barriers.

### How to Enter/Eligibility Requirements

#### 1. Write an essay about a barrier that you have faced. Explain how you used one or more of Jackie Robinson's Nine Values (listed below) to face your barrier.

- Citizenship
- Commitment
- Courage
- Determination
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Justice
- Persistence
- Teamwork

#### 2. Include the following information on your essay:

- your name
- school name
- your grade
- school city and state
- teacher's name

#### 3. Submit your essay in one of several ways:

##### Mail

Breaking Barriers Contest  
Scholastic Inc.  
P.O. Box 713  
New York, NY  
10013-0713

##### Online

**Grades 4–8:** Give your entry to your teacher to enter online  
**Grade 9:** Enter at [scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9](http://scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids/grade9)

##### Email

Teachers (grades 4–8) and grade 9 students may email entries to [breakingbarriers@scholastic.com](mailto:breakingbarriers@scholastic.com)

• Entries must be postmarked (mail) or submitted (online/email) by **March 14, 2019**.

• Essays must be factual and based on your real-life experiences. Fictional stories will be disqualified.

• Word count requirements:

**Grades 4–6:** 200 to 750 words **Grades 7–9:** 500 to 1,400 words

#### Essays will be evaluated according to these criteria:

- How well does the essay express the student's barrier?
- How well does the essay express how one or more of the values—*citizenship, commitment, courage, determination, excellence, integrity, justice, persistence, and teamwork*—are used to face and/or overcome the barrier?
- How well is the essay organized to express what the writer wants to say?
- How effective is the essay in expressing the writer's point of view?
- How well does the essay incorporate an example of Jackie Robinson's values?

**NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.** Void where prohibited. All students who are legal residents of, and currently reside in, the U.S., D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada (excluding Quebec) and who are currently enrolled in grades 4–9 are eligible to enter, except for those who have family members employed by Major League Baseball Properties, Inc., Scholastic Inc., and other related companies (see the Official Rules for a complete listing). Entries accepted in English or Spanish. Visit [scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/officialrules](http://scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/officialrules) for complete Official Rules and restrictions. All prospective winners and their respective parents/legal guardians will be required to sign, notarize, and return an affidavit of eligibility/release of liability within ten (10) days of date of notification or an alternate winner may be selected. In the event of prize unavailability, a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded as determined by the sole discretion of MLB. No cash substitutions for prizes. Prizes are nontransferable. ERV of Prizes: Grand Prize (\$7,659.70); MVP (\$3,359.70).

### 10 National Winners

#### Two (2) Grand Prize Winners

- **Grades 4–6:** Trip to the 2019 MLB All-Star Game
- **Grades 7–9:** Trip to a game of the 2019 MLB World Series
- Student and teacher laptops
- Class visit from Sharon Robinson, daughter of Jackie Robinson

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#### Eight (8) MVP Winners

- Student and teacher laptops

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All 10 winners also receive a class set of books by Sharon Robinson and a class set of T-shirts.

For Spanish, visit [scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids](http://scholastic.com/breakingbarriers/kids)