



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ESSAY CONTEST 2019: BLACK MIGRATIONS

1st prize: \$400; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize \$300; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize: \$200

**Manuscript requirements:** The essay is a research-based analysis, complete with MLA manuscript style and documentation, at least 850 words in length, and which integrates at least 5 (five) historic and scholarly sources, especially material found in the library databases, into the text. Some possible sources include – but are not limited to – newspaper articles, interviews, any sort of testimony by individuals directly involved, court cases, police reports, and magazines.

Please be as specific as possible with examples. Formal conventions such as intro, body, conclusion – although necessary – should take on less importance than the coherence, clarity, form, structure, and specificity of your essay. Answer the prompt to the best of your ability.

All parenthetical and Works Cited page citations must reflect Modern Language Association (MLA) eighth edition style. Handouts on the new version of MLA documentation are available for free at the SAC Writing Center, GH 203, 210-486-1433, or by accessing this link: <https://style.mla.org/>.

The essay must be double-spaced, 12-point type Times New Roman font.

Include a cover sheet providing your name, Banner ID, last 4 digits of SSN, a current phone number, e-mail address (that you check frequently), and a current address. DO NOT include your name in a header.

STUDENTS must be currently enrolled in at least 6 hours at San Antonio College, with a 2.0 GPA.

The Black History Month Committee requires that all participants arrange for at least ONE tutoring session at the SAC Writing Center and/or with a librarian prior to turning in the essay. Please make an appointment – walk-in appointments are not necessarily available when students seek them.

SAC Writing Center 210-486-1433

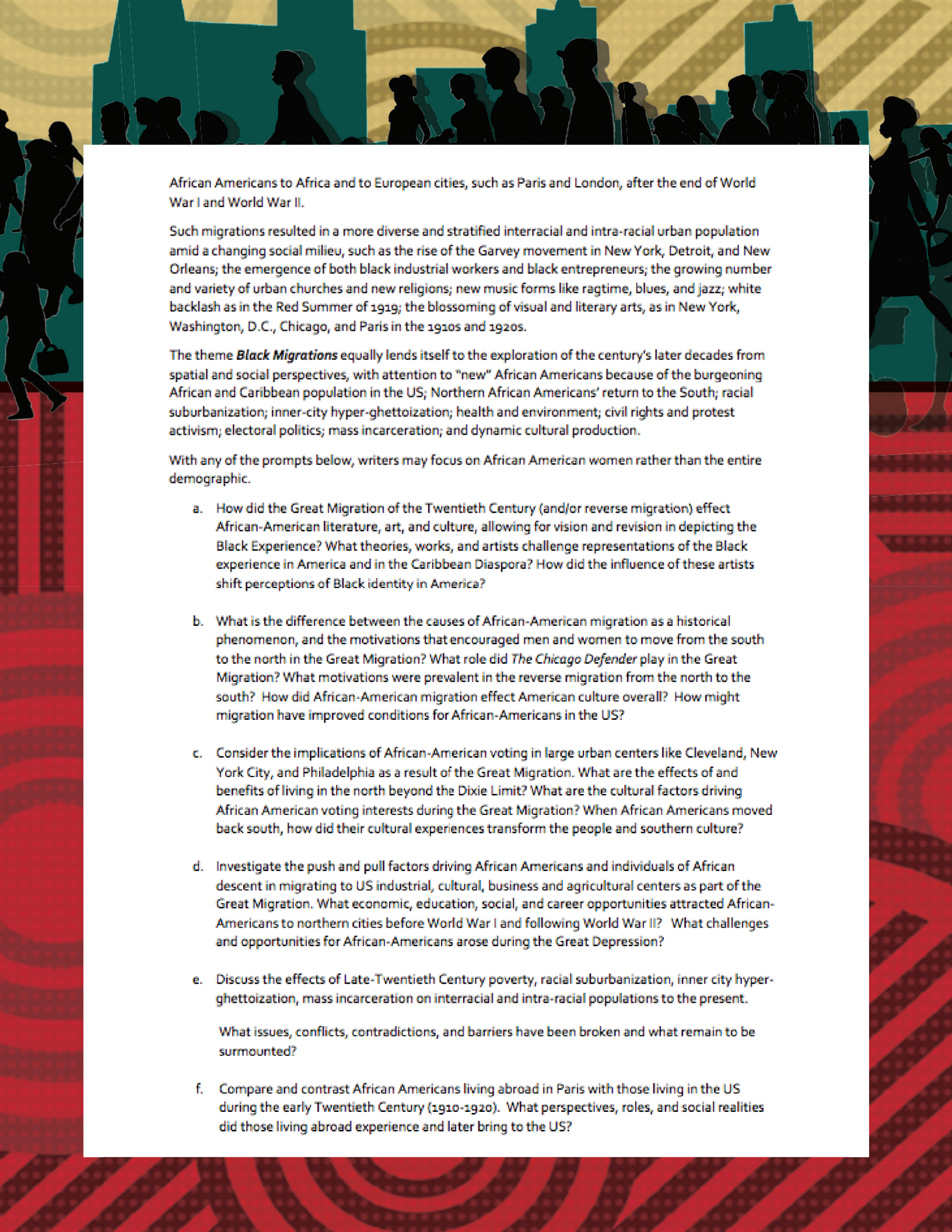
Book a Librarian [alamo.edu/sac/library](http://alamo.edu/sac/library), or text BOOK to 210-714-1619

Should any of the above requirements not be met, following submission and requirements check, the essay will not be included in the competition.

Submit as a rich text file (rtf) to Jane Focht-Hansen ([jfocht-hansen@alamo.edu](mailto:jfocht-hansen@alamo.edu)) by **3 pm February 16, 2019.**

Context: *Black Migrations* emphasizes the movement of people of African descent to new destinations and subsequently to new social realities. While inclusive of earlier centuries, this theme focuses especially on the twentieth century through today.

Beginning in the early decades of the twentieth century, African American migration patterns included relocation from southern farms to southern cities; from the South to the Northeast, Midwest, and West; from the Caribbean to US cities as well as to migrant labor farms; and the emigration of noted



African Americans to Africa and to European cities, such as Paris and London, after the end of World War I and World War II.

Such migrations resulted in a more diverse and stratified interracial and intra-racial urban population amid a changing social milieu, such as the rise of the Garvey movement in New York, Detroit, and New Orleans; the emergence of both black industrial workers and black entrepreneurs; the growing number and variety of urban churches and new religions; new music forms like ragtime, blues, and jazz; white backlash as in the Red Summer of 1919; the blossoming of visual and literary arts, as in New York, Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Paris in the 1910s and 1920s.

The theme *Black Migrations* equally lends itself to the exploration of the century's later decades from spatial and social perspectives, with attention to "new" African Americans because of the burgeoning African and Caribbean population in the US; Northern African Americans' return to the South; racial suburbanization; inner-city hyper-ghettoization; health and environment; civil rights and protest activism; electoral politics; mass incarceration; and dynamic cultural production.

With any of the prompts below, writers may focus on African American women rather than the entire demographic.

- a. How did the Great Migration of the Twentieth Century (and/or reverse migration) effect African-American literature, art, and culture, allowing for vision and revision in depicting the Black Experience? What theories, works, and artists challenge representations of the Black experience in America and in the Caribbean Diaspora? How did the influence of these artists shift perceptions of Black identity in America?
- b. What is the difference between the causes of African-American migration as a historical phenomenon, and the motivations that encouraged men and women to move from the south to the north in the Great Migration? What role did *The Chicago Defender* play in the Great Migration? What motivations were prevalent in the reverse migration from the north to the south? How did African-American migration effect American culture overall? How might migration have improved conditions for African-Americans in the US?
- c. Consider the implications of African-American voting in large urban centers like Cleveland, New York City, and Philadelphia as a result of the Great Migration. What are the effects of and benefits of living in the north beyond the Dixie Limit? What are the cultural factors driving African American voting interests during the Great Migration? When African Americans moved back south, how did their cultural experiences transform the people and southern culture?
- d. Investigate the push and pull factors driving African Americans and individuals of African descent in migrating to US industrial, cultural, business and agricultural centers as part of the Great Migration. What economic, education, social, and career opportunities attracted African-Americans to northern cities before World War I and following World War II? What challenges and opportunities for African-Americans arose during the Great Depression?
- e. Discuss the effects of Late-Twentieth Century poverty, racial suburbanization, inner city hyper-ghettoization, mass incarceration on interracial and intra-racial populations to the present.  
  
What issues, conflicts, contradictions, and barriers have been broken and what remain to be surmounted?
- f. Compare and contrast African Americans living abroad in Paris with those living in the US during the early Twentieth Century (1910-1920). What perspectives, roles, and social realities did those living abroad experience and later bring to the US?