

THE KOREAN AMERICAN PROJECT
2013 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

spotlight **KOREA**



"WHY SHOULD WE REMEMBER THE MARCH 1ST MOVEMENT?"

SUBMISSION DEADLINE FEB. 24, 2013

THE FIRST KOREAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

The events of the March 1st 1919 Independence Movement live in the hearts and minds of the Korean people. Suggest what you, as students, can do to combat and prevent prejudice, discrimination and violence in our world today. We want to know your thoughts on what lessons can be learned for countries today from the March 1st Movement.

OPEN TO STUDENTS
GRADE 7-12

\$1000 FIRST PRIZE
\$500 SECOND PRIZE
\$250 THIRD PRIZE

SPOTLIGHTKOREA.ORG



“Why Should We Remember the March 1st Movement?”

Korean American Project 2013 Student Essay

MARCH FIRST MOVEMENT

In 1905, Korea was placed under the military rule of Japan and in 1910 it was officially annexed as part of Japan’s thirty-five year imperialist expansion. In Korea, the period of Japanese rule (between 1910 and 1945) is generally referred to as a “Japanese forced occupation,” and there was widespread discontent within Korea over Japan’s management and strict control of the region.

Energy for a Korean independence movement grew between 1910 and 1919, as the general populace became increasingly educated and willing to stand up against the Japanese. General resentment erupted into wide-scale protest on March 1st, 1919, slightly more than a month after the death of Korea’s Emperor Gojong.

Only a year before, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson had given his famous Fourteen Points speech that apparently served as a rallying point for students and community leaders in their efforts to form a strong independence movement. The events that followed are referred to as the March 1st Movement, the Samil Independence Movement, or the Manse Demonstrations.

Despite the campaign’s failure to achieve its goal of independence, March 1st is celebrated as a national holiday in both North and South Korea today. The campaign for Korean independence is remembered as the most serious act of resistance to Japanese power of its time, and as a canonical example of nonviolent struggle against a foreign power.

THE ESSAY

The events of the March 1st Independence Movement live in the hearts and minds of the Korean people. It was the first people's movement in Korean history, and the event is commemorated by reading the Independence Declaration at the annual ceremony on March 1st.

However, the significance of the event is not clearly understood by the Korean people, and scholars and intellectuals in Korea differ in their assessment of the significance of the Movement. Give your opinion as to the impact it had on Korean history and the spirit of the Korean people. Analyze why it is vital that the remembrance, history and lessons of the Movement be passed to new generations. Suggest what you, as students, can do to combat and prevent prejudice, discrimination and violence in our world today. We want to know your thoughts on what lessons can be learned for countries today from the March 1st Movement.

This is NOT a research paper. Your essay will be judged foremost for its originality, clarity of expression, and adherence to contest theme, as well as its historical accuracy, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. The Korean American Project staff will read and evaluate entries.

AWARDS

One (1) 1st place winner will receive \$1,000

One (1) 2nd place winner will receive \$500

Two (2) 3rd place winners will receive \$250

Ten (10) honorable mentions

Each winning essay will be posted on Think Korea, the high school website of The Korean American Project. All winning essays will also be featured in prominent Korean newspapers and magazines.

RULES AND FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- Contest is open to all Korean American students grade 7-12.
- Your essay must be 1,000 words or less.
- Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- All essays should be double spaced; have one inch margins; include page numbers; be typed in 12 point font; and be in Microsoft Word or a compatible format.

SUBMISSIONS

Deadline is February 24, 2013 for submissions.

Please submit essay and completed application to info@spotlightkorea.org

ABOUT SPOTLIGHT KOREA

Spotlight Korea is a non-profit organization, founded under the auspices of The Korean American Project, to enhance the presence of Korean history, culture, and art in primary and secondary schools throughout the United States. Spotlight Korea will become the only site in

the world to focus solely on Korean history, art, literature, and culture while providing interactive children's activities, lesson plans for educators, and a singular multimedia experience. We aim to share, through East-West cultural dialogues, both the fascinating traditions of ancient Korea and the extraordinary vibrancy of modern Korea. Spotlight Korea has also produced Think Korea for junior and high school students with curriculum for educators and Passport Korea for younger children.

Korean-American Susanna Park is the founder and driving force behind Spotlight Korea and the Korean American Project. She is responsible for providing the creative direction and acting as liaison to both Korea and the Korean American communities. Susanna is an artist with an MFA from the Pratt Institute. She is the former executive director of the Korean Academy for Educators. Susanna was born in the Navy town of Jin-Hae, South Korea, in 1961. Her family moved to Seoul when she was three, and ten years later immigrated to the United States in 1974.

"As a Korean-American still closely connected to my ancestral home, I want to share Korea with my adopted nation and reconnect Korean-Americans to their heritage. Despite the fact that Korea has an ancient culture older than the pyramids, and despite the fact that Korea today is a global leader in technologies used for the information, space, automotive, and robotics industries, the country is largely absent from educational curricula throughout the United States. Enhancing the presence of Korean history, art, literature, and culture in US primary and secondary schools has become my mission. But why stop there? Why not shine a spotlight on the stories of Korean-Americans so that the general public can also share them? I am so excited to see my dream become a reality, and to share the Korea that I know with the rest of the world."



- Susanna Park



“Why Should We Remember the March 1st Movement?”

**Korean American Project
2013 Student Essay Application**

Essay Title: _____

Name: (English) _____

(Korean) _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____

Home Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Parent's Signature (if under 18): _____

Please submit essay and completed application to info@spotlightkorea.org
For more information visit spotlightkorea.org