



2026 Halton “Local Lens” Competition

**Monday, January 26, 2026, Kick off
Presentations due Friday May 29, 2026**

Students, please consent to the republishing of your essay, video presentation or spoken word.

No consent/no consideration

2026 Theme: “***Intersectionality: My Unique Identity and Journey***”

There will be Awards given out to the top 3 students in each area: narrative, video or spoken word.

Research can be obtained from, or on, family members, mentors, genealogists, and/or historians

3 Winners will be acknowledged in each category will be awarded at the HBHAS Freedom Celebration Gala, August 1, 2025, with an award and 1st place \$500 cheques – 2nd Place - \$250 and 3rd Place \$100 Selected submissions will be published in an annual Local Lens Journal

Students can tour events during Black History Month and other cultural venues for input and research.

Project Criteria

1. Essay maximum 3 pages = 2000 words or 15000 characters; (Note: 1 typed page = approximately 650 words or 5000 characters). Video & Spoken Word maximum 3 minutes.
2. Submissions must acknowledge resources in footnotes and/or bibliography.
3. No plagiarism.
4. Thesis statement must acknowledge essay overview and/or theme
5. Thesis must align to Halton’s Multi-cultural history and/or contributors.
6. Spelling, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and diction will be appreciated in evaluations.
7. **Reflections:** Each presentation should include a one paragraph or one minute monologue on your reflection on what you have learned from the experience. This can be separate from the 3-page narrative/3-minute video presentation. **Please send narrative in Word and Pdf format.**

Evaluation

Judges will mark submissions out of 50 by the following

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| 10 | Research (the writer should cite their sources of information) |
| 10 | Comprehensiveness for quality of writing (are thoughts and points in the essay clear, comprehensive, coherent?) |
| 10 | Relevance of information provided in the essay (Halton Black History) |
| 10 | Presentation (what impression/impact does the essay leave with the reader?)
HBHAS Halton Secondary School 2022 Black History Project |
| 10 | Originality -uniqueness, novelty, and authenticity of ideas. |

Best of Success: Winners will be announced on June 25, 2026