

ESSAY QUESTION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare a 250–500-word essay based on a quote from Dr. Bethune, Dr. Height, **OR** Dr. Cole (choose only **ONE** of the quotes below). Through this essay and guided by words of wisdom from our NCNW leaders, past and present, young Black women may give voice to the impact of important societal issues to the Black community that are as relevant today as they were during the founding of NCNW on December 5, 1935.

Choose **ONE** quote:

(1) “If we have the courage and tenacity of our forebears, who stood firmly like a rock against the lash of slavery, we shall find a way to do for our day what they did for theirs.”

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, Founded, 1st President and National Chair

(2) “There is no contradiction between effective law enforcement and respect for civil and human rights.”

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, 4th President and National Chair

(3) “Never let an injustice become yesterday’s news.”

Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole, 7th President and National Chair

OR

Prepare an essay based on a theme of her choice; below are examples of possible themes:

EDUCATION – discuss the benefits of pursuing a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education; **OR** examine the controversy over teaching in our schools the impact that slavery and the African Diaspora had on the founding of the United States; **OR** any theme that addresses the topic of Education.

VOTING RIGHTS – explain how restrictive voter ID requirements limit voter participation **OR** outline the need for passage of voter’s rights legislation such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, **OR** any theme that addresses Voting Rights.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE – explore how the Black Lives Matter movement has affected law enforcement in Black communities; **OR** describe the positive or negative aspects of calls to “Defund the Police,” **OR** any theme that addresses Criminal Justice.