

National Black Presbyterian Women 2025 Lucy Craft Laney Essay Competition

PERMISSION SLIP

The National Black Presbyterian Women and the National Black Presbyterian Caucus will present cash awards and certificates to the recipients. The winning essays may appear on the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Website, the National Black Presbyterian Women Newsletters, and be published for public release.

Youth entering the essay contest must be between 12 and 18 years old.

PERMISSION TO RELEASE:

Parents must permit the release of the student's essay information for publication.

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____.

Students must be permitted to release essay information for publication.

Signature of Student: _____.

Date: _____.

The essay submission is a two-step process, you will need to submit by email and mail by MAY 30, 2025.

First, you will need to download or scan your completed essay information and email it to the following address: hoopertracypw25@gmail.com by 5:00 P.M. (EST) May 30, 2025

Next, mail the hard copies of your essay to the following address:

Attn: Mrs. Shirley Greene, 554 Davega Drive, Lexington, South Carolina 29073.

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After dedicating a decade to teaching in Macon, Savannah, Milledgeville, and Augusta, "Miss Lucy," as she was affectionately known, established her own school in 1883 in the basement of Christ Presbyterian Church in Augusta. This institution, the Haines Normal and Industrial



Institute, was initially created for girls but later opened its doors to boys as well. Laney actively pursued funding for the school, receiving support from benefactor Mrs. Francine E. H. Haines. By 1912, the institute boasted thirty-four teachers, an enrollment of nine hundred students, and a college preparatory curriculum. Additionally, the school became a cultural hub for the African American community, hosting various events and offering early education programs.

Laney played a key role in establishing the local chapter of the NAACP in 1918 and was actively engaged in numerous civil rights organizations. Her influential connections included prominent figures like W. E. B. Du Bois and Langston Hughes. Following

her death in 1933, Laney was honored posthumously with a portrait in the Georgia State Capitol in 1974 and was inducted into the Georgia Women of Achievement in 1992.

Leslie, Kent. "Lucy Craft Laney." New Georgia Encyclopedia, last modified Jul 21, 2020.
<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/education/lucy-craft-laney-1854-1933/>

Scripture MICAH 6:8 (NIV)- He has shown you, O Mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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Read the Following Essays, then select a Topic that resonates with you. Your essay must be a 500-word response using Times New Roman 12-point Font.

Essay #1 “The Power of Storytelling: Media and Broadcasting”

A. "The Power of Storytelling: Why Pursue a Career in Media and Broadcasting"

How does working in media and broadcasting allow individuals to influence public opinion, share diverse stories, and make a positive impact on society? Provide examples of how media professionals have driven change and awareness in the world.

B. "The Evolution of Technology and Creativity in Broadcasting"

With the rise of digital platforms and social media, how has the media and broadcasting industry evolved? Discuss the creative and technical skills needed to succeed in this field and how these skills can shape future communication.

C. "Finding Your Voice: Personal Growth and Career Opportunities in Media and Broadcasting"

How can pursuing a career in media and broadcasting help young people develop communication skills, build confidence, and reach a global audience? Share your personal goals and how you envision making an impact in this dynamic industry.

Essay #2 “Black Representation”

A. "The Importance of Representation: How Black Mentors Inspire Personal and Professional Growth"

Explain how having a Black mentor can help individuals build confidence, overcome challenges, and navigate career paths.

B. "Building Strong Connections: Strategies for Finding and Approaching a Black Role Model"

Discuss effective ways to network, join mentorship programs, and seek guidance from Black professionals in various industries.

C. "Empowering Future Generations: The Impact of Black Mentorship on Leadership and Community Development"

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Examine how Black mentors contribute to fostering leadership skills, promoting cultural pride, and supporting community-driven initiatives. Who inspired you the most and why?

Essay #3 “Mentors”

A. **How Black Mentors Inspire Personal and Professional Growth”**

Explain how having a Black mentor can help individuals build confidence, overcome challenges, and navigate career paths.

B. **Building Strong Connections: Strategies for Finding and Approaching a Black Role Model”**

Discuss effective ways to network, join mentorship programs, and seek guidance from Black professionals in various industries.

C. **“Empowering Future Generations: The Impact of Black Mentorship on Leadership and Community Development”**

Examine how Black mentors contribute to fostering leadership skills, promoting cultural pride, and supporting community-driven initiatives.

Essay # 4 “Public Health in the Black Community

A. **“The Role of Youth in Promoting Vaccine Awareness and Public Health.”**

How can young people serve as advocates for vaccine awareness in their communities, especially in addressing misinformation and promoting informed decision-making?

B. **“Social media and Healthcare”**

What role do social media and peer influence play in shaping young people's perspectives on vaccines, and how can youth use these platforms to encourage preventative healthcare measures?

C. **“Youth and Healthcare Professionals”**

In what ways can Black youth engage with healthcare professionals, community leaders, and policymakers to ensure equitable access to vaccines and immunization education?

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Essay # 5 "A National Reckoning: Systemic Inequalities and the Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color."

A. "COVID-19 and People of Color"

How did the COVID-19 pandemic expose and exacerbate systemic inequalities affecting people of color, and what long-term policy changes are needed to address these disparities?

B. "Disproportionate loss of life in color communities"

What role did historical and structural racism play in the disproportionate loss of life among communities of color during the pandemic, and how can society work toward health equity?

C. "National Response to COVID-19 and racial and economic equality"

In what ways did the national response to COVID-19 reflect broader issues of racial and economic inequality, and how can future public health crises be handled more equitably

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Ensure that your submission includes the Lucy Craft Laney cover provided by the National Black Presbyterian Women. On the Presbyterian Women Cover Sheet, write the following information: your name, the essay number, the title of your selected essay, and the date, but refrain from including your entry number on this cover sheet. This will serve as the first page of your essay.

Ex.- Entry #: 1 Essay # 1-A

Title: "The Power of Storytelling: Why Pursue a Career in Media and Broadcasting"

Your essay should start with an introduction, followed by multiple body paragraphs that include personal anecdotes, research findings, historical examples, statistics, and other relevant information. Make sure to conclude your essay effectively, ensuring coherence and clarity throughout. Additionally, please type your essay in 12-point Times New Roman font.

Your submission will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Cover	20
Introduction	20
Body	20
Conclusion	20
Clarity/Coherence	20
Total Points	100

Author's Cover Sheet (the individual writing the essay is the author)

This is distinct from the provided Cover Sheet with Lucy Craft Laney picture on the front; this is a cover sheet you need to create.

Your Essay Cover Sheet should contain the following:

Author's Information: Name, home address, preferred phone number, and grade level of the youth.

Church or Affiliation: Include the church's name, address, phone number, or chapter.

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Title: The complete title of the essay.

Essay #: The essay number, which must correspond with the title.

Author's Entry #: 5- The number assigned to you upon submitting your essay.

Date: The submission date of the essay.

Word Count: A total word count should be provided, including footnotes and references.

Order of Essay Submission:

1. Lucy Craft Laney Picture Cover Sheet

2. Permission Slip

3. Author's Biography - Include details about extracurricular and academic activities.

List any awards and honors that may be referenced when publishing the student's essay.

Write about academic or vocational goals after high school, such as attending college, joining the military, or pursuing careers like teaching, nursing, or medicine.

The Author's Cover Sheet must incorporate the information mentioned above.

The Essay should consist of:

Introduction Paragraph, At Three Body Paragraphs, Conclusion Paragraph

Important Note!!! Do not include your name on the essay itself!

Judges will not review your work if your name appears on the essay!

The printed copy of the essay with the necessary cover sheets should be submitted to:

**Trinity Presbytery Attn: Mrs. Shirley Greene, 554 Davega Drive,
Lexington, S.C. 29073**

Additionally, an electronic copy must be sent to the following email: Attention Tracy Hooper hoopertracypw@gmail.com by 5:00 P.M. (E.S.T.) on May 30, 2025.