

Black History Month Essay Contest (the “Contest”)

OFFICIAL RULES

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR TO WIN. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF WINNING. ALL FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS APPLY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

Contest Period: February 1, 2016 through March 7, 2016

- 1) Sponsor: This Contest is sponsored by CSC Holdings, LLC (“Cablevision”) (the “Sponsor”).
- 2) Eligibility/Essay Submission: To enter, entrants must comply with the following requirements:
 - a) Each entrant must, at the time of submitting his/her entry, be a legal United States resident who attends school in a [Cablevision serviceable area](#) in the regions of New Jersey, Long Island, Westchester/Hudson Valley, Connecticut, and Brooklyn/Bronx (the "Participating Regions"), and is enrolled in the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th or 8th grade. Students may be enrolled in either public or private schools.
 - b) Employees, and members of their immediate families living in the same household, of Sponsor, their parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and their advertising, promotion and production agencies, are not eligible to enter. Void outside of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, and where otherwise prohibited by law.
 - c) Entrants must submit an original essay that answers, in 500 words or less, “Name an African American, past or present, with whom you would choose to spend a day, and explain why.”
 - d) All essays must comply with the following guidelines before submission:
 - No literary form other than an essay will be accepted.
 - Each essay must reflect the entrant’s own research, writing and original thinking.
 - Essay must be written in English.
 - Only one (1) essay may be submitted by each entrant.
 - Each entrant must complete and attach an Official Entry Form as described below.
 - A teacher or guidance counselor from the school where the entrant attends must complete the verification of authenticity on the entry form.
 - Essays must be typed. Hand written submissions will be disqualified.
 - The essay text is limited to five hundred words, doubled spaced, single sided, numbered pages with one-inch margins.
 - Each essay must include a title page, not considered part of the 500 word text, with the following information:
 - Essay Title
 - Author’s Name
 - Author’s Grade Level
 - School Name
 - School Address
 - School Telephone Number
 - Total Number of Pages of Essay
 - Name of Verifying Teacher or Guidance Counselor
 - The title of the essay, but NOT the author’s name, MUST appear on the top of the first page of the essay text.
 - If references are included, they should be clearly identified.
 - Entrants must send two (2) copies of the essay to:
Cablevision’s Optimum Community, 1111 Stewart Ave, Bethpage, NY 11714
Attn: Black History Month Essay Contest
 - Entries may be sent via e-mail to edinfo@cablevision.com or may be submitted online at www.optimum.net/community

- Mail-in entries must be postmarked on or before March 7, 2016 and received by March 7, 2016. Email entries and online entries must be received by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on March 7, 2016 to qualify.

3. **General:** Some files may be too large to email or may not be accepted by some email systems. No responsibility is assumed for viruses, technical, hardware, software or other email entry malfunctions of any kind or unavailable network connections, or failed, incorrect, incomplete, inaccurate, garbled or delayed electronic communications caused by the sender, or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the Contest which may limit the ability to participate, or by any human error which may occur in the processing of the entry for the Contest. If the Contest is not capable of being conducted as described in these Official Rules, Sponsor shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify or suspend the Contest. In such an event, Sponsor reserves the right to choose winners from all eligible entries received. Mutilated entries or entries missing any required information will not be accepted. Multiple or duplicate entries received will be disqualified. Responsibility for receipt of entry rests solely with the entrant. All entries become the property of the Sponsor. Sponsor will not return or acknowledge receipt of entries.

All entries must be submitted with a completed Official Entry Form (available at www.optimum.net/community) including teacher/guidance counselor verification and Parent or Legal Guardian approval. Mail-in and email entries require entrants to mail or email the Official Entry Form. Online entries include the Official Entry Form as part of the electronic submission process. **Please note, any entry that is missing a completed and signed Official Entry Form will not be accepted.**

By submitting an entry, entrants a) represent that their entries constitute original works of creativity that do not violate the property rights of any other person or organization, and b) grant Sponsor the right to reprint, exhibit, distribute, televise, promote, and otherwise use the entries, in whole or in part, in various media throughout the world without further compensation unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Sponsor reserve the right to use, refuse, edit or modify any submission from its original format or content.

Limit one entry per person.

4. **Selection of Winners/Prizing:** The Contest will be divided into two (2) separate competitions as follows: All eligible entries will be divided into two (2) groups. The first group will be comprised of all eligible entries from elementary school participants (grades 4 and 5) and the second group will be comprised of all eligible entries from middle school participants (grades 6, 7, and 8). There will be one (1) competition for the elementary school participant group (grades 4 and 5) and one (1) competition for the middle school participant group (grades 6, 7 and 8). For each competition, one (1) grand prize winner, and three (3) finalists. Entries will be evaluated by a panel of judges according to the following criteria: (i) comprehension; (ii) organization; (iii) conclusions; (iv) creativity; and (v) writing. Each criterion will be scored in accordance with the following scoring structure:

Comprehension (1 – 20 points) _____

How well does the essay reflect a thorough comprehension of the essay topic? Does the essay provide supported reasons for the student’s topic selection?

Organization (1 – 20 points) _____

Does the argument/discussion follow a logical and easily understood progression? Does any outside evidence contained in the essay support the essay’s main points?

Conclusions (1 – 20 points) _____

Do the conclusions follow logically from the main body of the essay? How compelling are the conclusions?

Creativity (1 – 20 points) _____

Use of diverse resources, such as interviews or quotes from others; story-telling approach; creative angle?

Writing (1 – 20 points) _____

Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, concise language.

For each competition, the entrant who gets the highest combined score will be the Grand Prize winner. The entrants who get the second, third and fourth highest combined scores will be the finalists. The likelihood and odds of winning a particular prize depend on the quality of each entry compared to the quality of other entries, as judged by the criteria stated in these Official Rules. Any and all tie-breakers will be determined by the Sponsors in their sole discretion. Winners will be selected and on or about March 11, 2016. Winners will be announced on or about March 16 on the Optimum Community website at www.optimum.net/community. Winners will also be notified by phone and or e-mail, at the address stated on the Contest Entry Form, within three (3) business days after selection. An inability to contact the winner or a return of prize notification as undeliverable may result in disqualification and an alternate winner may be selected. If the winner does not respond to award notification within seven (7) business days after the notification, the prize may be deemed to be "Unclaimed". Unclaimed prizes may be added to future contests or awarded to an alternate winner at the sole discretion of Sponsors. Winners may waive their right to receive prizes. Prizes are not assignable and not transferable. No refund, cash redemption, substitution or replacement of prize or any prize component permitted, except that Sponsor reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to substitute a prize of equal or greater value (or cash equivalent). Winners are solely responsible for reporting and payment of any taxes on prizes. Winners and their parent or guardian may be required to complete an affidavit of eligibility, and a liability and publicity release (except where prohibited by law) which must be returned within ten (10) days of date of postmark. Failure to sign and return the affidavit or release within ten (10) days, or to comply with any term or condition of these Official Rules, may result in a winner's disqualification, the forfeiture of his or her interest in the prize, and the award of the prize to an alternate winner according to the criteria set forth in these Rules.

One or more events will be held in the Cablevision service area recognizing the Contest winners on certain dates, times and places to be determined by the Sponsors. Winners will be notified of the dates, times and locations of such events. Family members will be invited to attend the events along with the winners. Sponsors, community leaders and certain media guests may also be in attendance. Although winners are encouraged to participate, attendance is not mandatory to receive prizes.

PRIZES (Same for each competition):

Grand Prize: Tablet Computer – (Exact model and features TBD solely by Sponsors) –and compatible keyboard (Exact model and features TBD solely by Sponsors) – Approximate Retail Value ("ARV"): \$600

Finalist Prize: Each finalist will receive one (1) mini Tablet Computer – (Exact model and features TBD solely by Sponsors) – ARV: \$275

5. **Participation:** By their participation, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules as solely determined by Sponsors and their management. In the event the Contest is compromised by tampering or other causes beyond the reasonable control of Sponsors, which corrupts or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper operation of the Contest, Sponsors reserve the right to suspend, modify or terminate the Contest. Should the Contest be terminated prior to the stated expiration date, Sponsors reserve the right to award prizes based on the entries received before the termination date.
6. **Limitations of Liability:** By entering the Contest, entrant agrees that (1) any and all disputes, claims, and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the Contest, or any prizes awarded, shall be resolved individually without resort to any form of class action, and entrant waives his or her right to a jury trial for such disputes, claims, and causes of action; (2) any claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, including costs associated with entering the Contest, but in no event attorneys' fees; and (3) under no circumstances will any entrant be permitted to obtain any award for, and entrant hereby waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental or consequential damages and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased and any other damages, other than damages for

actual out-of-pocket expenses.

7. Construction: Except where prohibited, all issues and questions concerning the Contest, including but not limited to, the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these official rules, or the rights and obligations of entrants or Sponsors in connection with the Contest, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action, and be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules (whether of the State of New York or any other jurisdiction), which would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the State of New York. In addition, any dispute relating to the Contest (including these official rules) shall be brought in the appropriate New York state court in Nassau County or federal court in and for the Eastern District of New York. Entrants hereby irrevocably consent to the personal jurisdiction of said courts and waive any claim of forum non conveniens or lack of personal jurisdiction that they may have. Any and all claims, judgment and awards shall be limited to actual out-of-pocket costs incurred, but in no event attorneys' fees and under no circumstances will entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and entrant hereby waives, all rights to claim, indirect, punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any other damages, other than for actual out-of-pocket expenses, and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased.
8. General Release: By entering the Contest, entrants release and covenant not to bring claim against Sponsors and their respective parents, subsidiaries, affiliated companies, directors, officers, employees, representatives, partners and agents from any liability whatsoever for any claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the Contest or with the acceptance, possession or use of any prize (including, without limitation, claims, costs, injuries, losses or damages related to personal injuries, death, damage to, loss or destruction of property, rights of publicity or privacy, defamation or portrayal in a false light). The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of these rules shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision. If any such provision is determined to be invalid or otherwise unenforceable, these rules shall be construed in accordance with their terms as if the valid or enforceable provision was not contained therein.
9. Winners List: A list of Contest winners may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Black History Month Essay Contest, Cablevision – Optimum Community, 1111 Stewart Avenue, Bethpage, NY 11714 after March 16, 2016