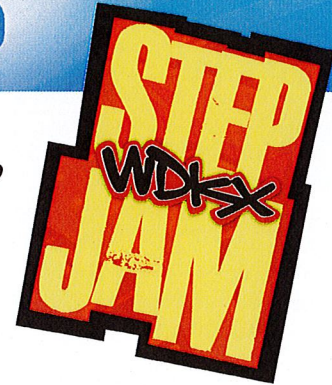




Just Law

Community ♦ Courts ♦ Education



For a chance to win Step Jam tickets, participate in the Just Law program by writing the 250 word essay on what justice means to you.

Essay Rules and guidelines: Research the justice system and how the courts work. Write a well thought out and well-written 250 word essay based on "What Justice Means to Me"

- One entry per student, per school
- Grades 6,7,8 **ONLY**
- Students must have **at least** 90% attendance at school— **no more than two missed days a month.**
- Parental consent is required

Type or print your responses on the back of this form and complete ALL parts. You must provide clear and accurate contact information (phone number and email addresses)

Deadline for entry: Monday, November 19, 2018

Top 12 essay submissions will be selected to attend the **WDKX Step Jam** on December 8, 2018 at the Blue Cross Arena as special guests - Winners will be announced, honored on stage, meet the Step Jam artists and sit in the VIP section.

Top 12 essay winners will present their essays at the Hall of Justice in the Spring 2019 and receive prizes (iPads or Nooks, gift cards, etc.) and an opportunity to be mentored by members of the Rochester Black Bar Association and Court Leaders. **Student Information (Please print clearly):**

Eamon Capps

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School of the Arts (74)

8th grade

School

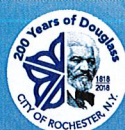
Grade

12/30/19

☒ PARENTS APPROVAL (REQUIRED, PLEASE CHECK THE BOX)

Date

Fill out your essay on the next page.





What Justice Means To Me

Eamon Capps

School of the Arts

9th grade

"I'm for justice no matter who it's for or against"

—Malcolm X

I believe justice requires giving everyone equal opportunities and making life fair. But justice is also when people take responsibility and get credit they deserve

It's important to ask, "Do we live in a just society?" "Is our society fair and does it give everyone an equal opportunity?" Obviously our society still faces many problems and many of these problems have deep roots. For instance, in the 1930s, redlining began. This is something we learned about in school and it was a big problem in Rochester. Redlining was unjust because it took away people's opportunity to choose where to live, learn, shop, and play. The effects of redlining are problems we still face today. In addition it's important to realize that redlining was unjust even though it was not illegal. This means we should care about justice even if something is not against the law. We also need to realize that something can be against the law but still be just. Not every law is a just law, because some laws make life less fair for people. This is something civil rights activists know. Martin Luther King says, in his *Letter From Birmingham Jail*, that "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." This means that we need to be concerned about everyone's rights, not just our own. Likewise, John Rawls argues that when you build a just society you should look first at what the least well-off people need. To me, this means that we should all care about justice, and about others having the opportunities that they deserve to have.

Unfairness is a problem the justice system needs to solve but I believe justice is something we are all responsible for maintaining. For example there are many innocent people in jail due to others looking less at the facts and more at a person's characteristics. One of my favorite documentaries is *The Thin Blue Line*. In this film an innocent person was sentenced to death because the justice system was stacked against him. He was in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was not until the movie was released that he was freed. Sometimes judicial procedures are followed but no justice is actually served. Unfortunately, many people try to avoid jury duty because they consider it a burden, but, really, they should look at jury duty as an opportunity to stop unfairness and inequality. It's important that everyone should care about justice whether they're in trouble or not. And we should all should take responsibility for justice, put aside our biases, and work to create a more fair, equitable society. Like Malcolm X, I'm for justice no matter who it's for or against.