

Black History Month Scholarship Essay
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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once stated, "Even If I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree." Dr. King planted his seed in the lives of Rosa Parks, Mohandas Gandhi and in many others. In an indirect way, Dr. King planted his apple tree in my life. However, I also have had seeds planted in my life by my family. The seeds that they have planted are growing into a beautiful tree that will produce fruit which will be beneficial to others. My family would be my foundation or "roots." Throughout my life, I have developed a strong trunk of many layers that is able to withstand any obstacle. The "branches" would be my education that is able to take me in many directions. The "apples" would represent my contributions to the community so that Florida and its citizens can have a brighter future.

Tree roots anchor the tree in soil, keeping it straight and stable. My family and mentor, Mrs. Lisa, are my roots. My roots have given me the guidance I need to get where I am in life and further. They have built a solid foundation for me and I have grown into a tenacious apple tree. Zora Neal Hurston, Mary McLeod Bethune and Charlie Crist are just some of the many people who have helped build our foundation in Florida. As a young African American, I can help create a strong foundation for the next generation by planting a seed into their lives. Therefore, the "roots" or advice I have been given can be passed on to others and the cycle will continue for generations to come.

The trunk is the main structure of a tree. It supports the branches and is supported by the roots. A trunk has many layers which, in my life, represent all the obstacles I have overcome. Negative words can hit me but cannot break me down to the core. When being told that I'm not smart enough or I will never achieve at something, has just strengthened my trunk more. While being this strong, I believe I have the confidence to strengthen Florida's trunk as others have strengthened mine.

My "branches" would represent my education and everything I have learned in life. I would like to better our educational system because education gives us knowledge of the world around us. Education is very important and I would like to give Florida a better opportunity for a better educational system by giving back the knowledge that has been afforded to me.

Finally, my "apples" would be all the contributions I would make to Florida. Regardless of winning this scholarship or not, I will still plant my seeds into the lives of others. I have learned and gained too much knowledge to keep to myself. I believe that the seeds I plant and the fruit of my hard work will cause Florida's future to be brighter and better!