



## Student Essays

### Albert, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

The chance to attend the presidential inauguration is important to me for a lot of reasons. I will be the first person in my family to travel to Washington D.C. and the first to attend an inauguration. I am hopeful that Barack Obama will win the election and it would mean a lot for me to see him take the oath of office. Attending the inauguration is important to me because I want to witness and be a part of history.

I want the chance to represent my school and my family in Washington D.C. If I am chosen everyone in my family and everyone in my neighborhood will be excited and proud of me. I will be able to come back and share all of my stories and my pictures and make them feel as if they were there. This will make them feel like they were a part of history too. If I am chosen to go my mom will brag to everyone that her son had a chance to go to Washington D.C. and see the presidential inauguration.

I would love the chance to go to the inauguration because I am hoping that Barack Obama is elected. If Barack Obama is elected I would be so excited because he is a role model for me. He proves to me that it does not matter where you come from, if you work hard you can do and have anything. I look up to Barack Obama and I would be proud if I could be there as he takes the oath to protect and serve our country. When I see him do this I will believe even more that I can do it too. I know that he would be a good president because he is already a good role model.

If I am able to attend the inauguration I will get the chance to be a part of history. If Barack Obama wins, he will be the first African American elected to this office. If this happens it will change the history of our country. If Barack Obama wins I would really believe that change is coming to America. This would be such a historic moment because I don't think that anyone ever thought that this would ever happen. If I am there to see this happen, I will tell everyone and my life will never be the same.

### Alfonso, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

I want to go to Washington D.C. for many reasons. First I want to go because it would be my first time going on a trip with my classmates. We could get to know each other better and become good friends with each other. We will learn a lot together and experience history together. Actually, going somewhere to learn many things about our government is a great idea.

Secondly, I want to see things that are in Washington D.C. That will be a new experience for me. I have never been to Washington D.C. so it will be exciting for me to see all of the monuments and historic buildings. To think that I might possibly be a part of history, because Barack Obama could be the first African American to become President, is exciting. Seeing Barack Obama become the president of the United State would be a historical moment and it would be the best part of the trip.

Thirdly, if I get to go to Washington D.C., I promise to be on my best behavior. I will follow all directions and pay attention to everything in school. I will do my work and make my family and teachers proud. I will represent myself, my school and my family well. I will also tell my little sister everything about Washington D.C. if I get the chance to go. I will also share with my classmates about my experience and I hope that it will make them work harder in school.

Going to the inauguration would be such a great opportunity to visit a new place and have new adventures. I will have stories to tell for years. I will never forget this experience if I get the chance to go to the inauguration. It will change me forever if I get to go to Washington D.C.

### **Amari, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Attending the presidential inauguration is important to me because it is a history making event. The presidential inauguration will occur on January 20, 2009. It is the day when the elected president is sworn into office. This office is no small task. The person sworn into this office will be the head of state and government for our country. The office of the president is the highest political office.

Attending the inauguration is important to me because in school I have learned about slavery. I have learned of times when African Americans could not vote because of race. I have learned about how our country was divided. If I attend the inauguration I will see the history of our country change before my eyes. This election could be the opportunity for the first African American president to get elected, Barack Obama. If John McCain wins the election his running mate, Sarah Palin would be the first female vice president in history.

Attending the inauguration is important to me because I will get to visit Washington D.C. I have never been there before and I look forward to seeing all of the history that is there. I want to see the White House and all of the monuments up close. I want to be able to go to the museums and see the city. Going to the inauguration is important to me and it will be an experience that I will never forget if I am selected.

### **Brianna, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

On January 20, 2009 at 12:00 noon the 56<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration will be held. To be among great political leaders and our President will be like a dream come true. While watching both the Democratic and Republican conventions I realize that pages in history will be added, despite the outcome of the election, I want to be there when history is made!

Experiencing something educational is important to me because it can help to enhance my future. To be among the small percentage of Americans that have attended an inauguration is a lifetime opportunity in itself. To be able to hear the president make his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of my country in person will just be breathtaking.

Attending the presidential inauguration is important to me because I believe for the first time in history an African American will be elected as the President of the United States. While watching the Democratic National Convention with my mother, the inspiring words of Barack Obama sent chills through my spine. His catchy slogans linger in my head because I really believe that he is offering "Change We Can Believe In." To hear him speak in person as the President of the United States would make me ecstatic!

On the other hand, if John McCain is elected President of the United States history will still be made but double-fold. He would be the oldest person to assume the presidency, while Sarah Palin would be the first woman to hold the office of Vice-President. History is bound to be made at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.

It is very important to me to attend the 2009 Presidential Inauguration because I want to be a part of history. I want to be there in person to experience history firsthand. No one in my family has ever

attended an inauguration before. I want to add a page not only to America's history but also to my family's history. It is important for me to attend the inauguration. I would be forever grateful to be one of the students chosen.

### **Christian, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because I want to be a part of the history that will be made on January 20, 2009. I know that there are two candidates but I would like Barack Obama to win the election. I want to be there so that I can tell my children and grandchildren that I was twelve years old when I was in Washington D.C. and saw the first African American to take the oath of office for the presidency of the United States. If they don't believe me, I will take out all of the pictures that I took while I was there and show the pictures to them. I will tell them of all the stories and how this one trip made me a better student.

It is important for me to attend the inauguration because I want to witness the inaugural address. I don't want to watch it on television I want to actually be there. I honestly believe that one of my most memorable moments will be when Barack Obama places his hand on the Bible and promises to serve our country. At that moment he is making the most important promise of his life and I want to say I was there when it happened.

I have never been to Washington D.C. before and I have never flown on an airplane so this trip is important to the history of my own life. While we are in Washington D.C. I want the chance to get to see all of the historic monuments that we will tour. I want to be able to tell people that I was close enough to touch the historic places that we read about in school. I would be very excited to say that I took my first airplane ride and it was to the presidential inauguration. If I am chosen to attend the inauguration I will be in the most important spot of the world on January 20, 2009.

### **Chyna, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because I want to see for myself what I learn about in my Paragon class. I want the chance to see all of the history in Washington D.C. If Barack Obama wins this election he will change the United States of America forever. It is important to know history when you are going to the presidential inauguration. It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because it may be the chance for me to see the first black president of the United States. I think that Barack Obama is a great leader and will make a good president because he is determined. I am also determined to get chosen for this trip.

It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because then I get to see history with my own eyes. I believe that if you are determined you can make it through. The presidential inauguration is a very important day of history. The commitment that the president will make by swearing on the Bible is a vow that he should never break. I want to stand there when he makes this promise.

I want to be chosen to attend the presidential inauguration because if Barack Obama becomes president it will change the whole nation. If he wins it will show that when you have determination you can make it. When you are determined you are able to accomplish more and that is what this race is teaching me. It is important for me to attend the inauguration because I am determined to make it.

It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because some day I will be able to vote. When I vote, I want to make the right choice. I also want to go to Washington D.C. to see all the important parts of history like the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. The last reason

why it is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration is because it is a once in a lifetime chance for me. That is why going to the presidential inauguration is important to me.

#### **Davion, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The presidential inauguration is important in my life. When my kids ask me one day how was the presidential inauguration I want to be able to tell them all about it. I want to tell them about how I saw the first black president take the oath of office. I want the chance to see the first African American become president. I want to be there so that I have another reason to be proud of being an African American. I want to take an airplane to Washington D.C. and watch history in the making. I want to be able to sleep in a hotel and go to the inaugural ball. This is why going to the inauguration is important to me.

The presidential inauguration is important to my education. If Barack Obama gets to become president he will help the black community and all communities. He will make sure that all students have good schools to go to and that everyone will have the chance to go to college. I think that he will make sure that this happens. If Barack Obama wins, I think that he will make sure that all schools have nice buildings that are safe and do not need security at the door.

The presidential inauguration is important for a change in my life. Whoever wins the election I think that they will be a good leader. I hope that when we have a new president that gas prices will go down and that taxes will get lowered. I hope that there will be more jobs for people. A new president will mean change for our country and I want to be there when the change happens.

#### **Destiney, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

I have four reasons why I feel that I would be a great candidate for the Washington D.C. trip. The first reason that I feel that I should go is because of my involvement in my school. The second reason that I should go to Washington D.C. is because I want to show all of my teachers and my principal what I have learned because I am a student at Frazier Prep. The third reason is to demonstrate to everyone how Frazier Prep has instilled in me a drive for success. The fourth reason why I feel that I am a good candidate for the trip is because I am well behaved, well mannered, and very smart.

My involvement in school is why I feel that I should go to D.C. I have been involved in community service activities at the school. I also help Ms. Little by doing things to help around the school. I helped Ms. Little organize our Paragon room and I also pick up after others around the school. I even mentored some younger students in our school when they were having a hard time making the right choices. I put encouraging words in their minds because they were getting into a lot of trouble and not representing our standard of excellence. But, the student that I mentored made it because I took the time to encourage her and show her how a Frazier Prep student is supposed to behave.

Since I have been at Frazier Prep I have learned how to introduce myself in the proper way. I've learned how to speak properly and confidently. In our public speaking class I learned how to use hand jesters when I am talking to express myself. Another thing that I have learned is how to make eye contact when I'm speaking to a person. I have also learned a lot about history in our Paragon classes.

I want to go to Washington D.C. so that I can share the passion that I have for success which I received from Frazier Prep. I was always filled with high self-esteem, but when I was feeling down, the staff at the school always picks me up. The staff never let me quit or give up, they always tell us to strive for excellence and that we can do anything. They push us to be successful every day and remind us to be

focused on our school work. They want us to be successful in everything that we do and I want to share that with other people.

Finally, I think and believe that I should go on this trip because I am well mannered. I listen and follow directions. I obey authority at all times and last but not least I always complete all of the assignments that my teachers give me. I work hard and I will do a good job of representing Frazier Prep.

### **Dezjah, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

It is important for me to attend the presidential inauguration because it will be a great experience. It will also allow me the opportunity to become a part of a historical event that will change my mind forever about history. Attending the presidential inauguration will be a great experience for me because I will have the opportunity to see our 44<sup>th</sup> president sworn into office to serve and protect the United States of America. This would be a great experience for me if I were able to meet the president of the United States.

This presidential inauguration will allow me to become a part of a historical event that will always be remembered in the history of the United States. This will be a historic event because the first African American male named Barack Obama has made it this far in a presidential campaign and for the first time in history a female by the name of Sarah Palin will have the opportunity to become the vice president of the United States of America.

The presidential inauguration will change my mind forever about history. My mind will forever be changed because I will actually see our history change before my eyes. This event will become a part of not only history but a piece of my memory that I will one day pass on to my children. It is also memories that I can share with my family when we return. I will be able to tell them all about the things that they were not able to see watching the inauguration on television.

No matter who wins this presidential election, the inauguration will be important for me to attend because I will have the opportunity of a lifetime to experience history in the making and I will be a part of a historical event that will change my mind about history.

### **Donovan, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Attending the Presidential Inauguration is so important to me because it will be a life changing moment for me. I am the first person in my family to ever go to Washington D.C. let alone, go there to see the first woman vice president or the first African American president sworn into office. I can't even believe that I might be chosen to go. I remember my mom and my teachers telling me about the Civil Rights Movement and Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech. I want to be able to tell people that I stood in the same places where some of these things happened.

If I were chosen to be a part of the DC 24, I would not trade anything in the world for that moment. When Ms. Little announces those names it will change the history of our lives forever. I hope that history will allow Barack Obama to be elected as president and that will change everyone's life.

This experience will mean so much to me. I will be able to tell my children when I am older that I was there when it all happened. My children will be able to tell their children and we will have stories to pass down for generations. As a young African American male this chance means a lot to me because I am making the right choices. This chance will give me more hope for my future. I am funny, hardworking,

and talented. As the oldest brother in a single mother household, I have a lot of responsibilities. If I am chosen to go on this trip my mom and my younger brother will be proud of me.

I really don't know how to say all that I feel inside but attending the inauguration would be an experience of a lifetime for me. Being in Washington D.C. for this moment will forever change my life. I will be able to say that I saw history and our country change before my eyes. I hope that I am chosen.

### **Eniya , 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Getting the opportunity to attend the inauguration in Washington D.C. would be a once in a lifetime experience for me. It will allow me to see up close all of the history that I hear about in school. This trip will also give me the opportunity to share everything that I was able to learn, see, and do with my family members and classmates who were not able to go on this trip. For me, this trip will serve as motivation and let me know that my hard work in school has and will pay off.

Taking the trip to the inauguration will help me and my classmates to understand the importance of hard work, determination, and a good education. This trip will motivate us to learn more about history and government and may encourage one of us to become a politician or at least do our civic duties. It will allow us to see the seriousness of the office of president. I am the Vice-President of student council and I am learning the importance of good leadership. If I am selected to go to Washington D.C., I will get to see our nation's best leaders in action. This opportunity is important to me because I take my school leadership role very serious.

Going to the presidential inauguration will be a once in a lifetime experience that will be hard to put into words. There are so many things going on in our country and I hope that new leadership will bring the change that we need right now. I want to be there as that change begins to happen. I want to be able to hear our next president take the oath to make the commitment to serve our country diligently. If I am selected, my family will be very proud as I go to represent them. I will be proud to represent Frazier Preparatory Academy.

### **Essence, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

For me to be able to go to the presidential inauguration means so many things. First of all it would be an experience of a lifetime, which I know I will never forget. This will be a chance for me to go somewhere that my sisters have not been. My sisters always get opportunities to go places and I do not. Going to Washington D.C. will give me a chance to tell them stories about where I have traveled. My older sister is a junior at North Lawndale High School and is a star player on the girls' basketball team. She is always going some cool place to play in tournaments. My younger sister has been a lot of places with her and his family. So for me to be able to fly to Washington D.C. on a trip that I was chosen for to see the president of the United States promise to protect our country and take care of us is the best thing that my mind can imagine.

To me this trip will mean that my dream to become a chef that cooks for celebrities is something that can really happen. My dreams are at my reach. To me it means that my mom's decision to transfer me to Frazier Preparatory Academy was a great idea. It means that this is just the beginning of more good things to come at my school. To me it means that life could be bigger than just my home in Chicago. Going to the inauguration means that I will get the opportunity to meet other kids from different cities and states and share stories with them.

I know that this is one of the best educational experiences that I will have and I would never forget it. For me this is an experience that I can one day say to my kids that I went to a presidential inauguration. When I think about going to Washington D.C. my mind goes faster than I can think on what I will see, who I will meet, and what I will wear. I get so excited and I can just feel the importance of it. I know in my heart that this is the beginning of something big. So for me to be chosen to represent Frazier Preparatory Academy will be one of my proudest moments and I will do a great job because after all, I am at a great school!

#### **Jakari, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

For me to attend the Presidential Inauguration would be extremely important because so many things can change after this election. I am concerned about many issues in our country. I feel that Barack Obama can help make this world a better place. I am hoping he wins and I am chosen to be one of the DC 24.

I can learn a lot from Senator Obama. I can help him make the world a better place in the future. I will learn how to be more involved and stay focused on my goals. I like believing in his slogan "Yes We Can." Barack Obama makes me feel like I can do anything and that our country can change if we work together. I am from Illinois so I know a lot about Barack Obama. Barack Obama has dedicated his life to the public services and as a community organizer he has already done so much to help our state and I know that he will do a lot to help our country. I'm proud to be from Illinois and proud that Barack Obama is from Illinois.

History has already been made and I watched it on television. Barack Obama made history on the day that he announced that he was going to run for president. He made history again when he became the first African American to lead a major party ticket. I hope that he will continue to make history on election night. I hope that I make history by being the first person in my family to ever attend a presidential inauguration. This is one of the most exciting things to witness in a life time. Who wouldn't love to experience this? That is why attending the Presidential Inauguration is very important to me. I hope I get to chance to see it with my own eyes.

#### **Jareea, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

I would consider it a great honor to witness my first Presidential Inauguration. The political party is very interesting to me. I want to see our next president sworn into office. The process to elect a President consists of citizens deciding who they want to lead the country. In order for the president to be elected, he or she must first win primaries and be appointed by their party to run for office. There are so many things to learn about this amazing step of democracy. When the candidate wins, they will take an oath to lead the United States of America. I want to witness this process. I want to be a part of history. If Obama wins the election, he will be the first African- American President of the United States. His win will make history and I want to be there to see it.

I want to visit Washington D.C. I want to walk the streets of this great city. I want to see the statues, the Capital, and the White House. These places are symbols of the United States of America's government. I want to prepare myself to become an active citizen who gets involved with the political process. I can learn more in person and gain additional respect for our political process.

The United States is a republic, a democracy in which the people elect representatives to speak for them and a President to speak for them and to be the chief executive officer. Instead of voting for each issue

affecting our nation, citizens give their elected representatives the power to evaluate public policy issues and make laws. Therefore, it is the responsibility of citizens to:

- Know who represents them on a national, state, and local level
- Evaluate whether or not their elected officials properly and accurately represent their views
- Learn about the candidates, who may oppose their views
- Vote for their representative

Voting for our representative is a great privilege and should be taken seriously as the basic duty of citizenship. Participating in a Presidential inauguration is one of the most important events a citizen can see and I want to be there as it happens.

### **Kierra, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The Presidential Inauguration is very important to me. It is important to me because whatever the outcome is, this will be a new experience for our country. It is important to me because this election means that change is coming to America. It is important for me to attend the inauguration in D.C. because it will be a life changing learning experience for me.

Whoever is elected as our president will bring something new to the White House. If Obama becomes the president, he will become the first African American president of the United States. If John McCain becomes the president, he will not only be the oldest candidate to take office, but he will have Sarah Palin as the first female vice president working with him.

If I have the opportunity to go to Washington D.C. it will be a great learning experience for me. I will be able to see all of the historic monuments up close and learn about them in fine detail. It is not everyday that you have the chance to see and experience history. We hear about and read about all of these places and it would be nice to finally get the chance to see them in real life.

The chance to attend the presidential inauguration would be a life changing experience for me. I have never been to Washington D.C. before and I know that I would never forget this experience. When I have children in the future I will be able to tell them all about my experiences at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration and they will be proud to tell other people that they know someone who was there when our country changed forever.

### **Marquis, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

The presidential inauguration is important to me because I would like to hear Barack Obama give his speech if he wins. I want to be able to attend the inaugural ball and meet other people who are happy to be there just like I would be. I would like the opportunity to maybe see Barack Obama in person instead of on television. I would be honored if I could shake his hand. I would be honored just to hear him take the oath of office with his family around him. I know that they will be very happy on this day. I would love the chance to talk to Barack Obama and I mean that from the bottom of my heart. I just want to hear from him how he was able to do all of the things that he has done.

If Barack Obama wins the election he will be the first African American to become the president of the United States. This will make history and I want to be there to see it for myself. I know that he will make a good president and that everyone will be able to trust him. I want to be in Washington so that I can hear his speech. I want to be able to hear it live and not on television. I know that Barack Obama will do

a good job with that speech and I will listen to every word. I know that thousands of people will be there and everyone will be very happy if history is made on that day.

Going to the inauguration is important to me and I would be proud to represent my school and my family there. I want to be able to tell everyone I know that I was in Washington D.C. for the presidential inauguration and my family will be proud to tell everyone that they know that I was there. This would be the chance of a lifetime for me and I would never forget it if I get the chance to go to Washington D.C. and see the inauguration.

## **Nia, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

### *Importance*

Why is going on this field-trip to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration important? It's important because I want to be a part of history. This field trip is important because I want people to know who we are as a people and that we can achieve great things. I will take pride in myself and my people. This field-trip is important because Barack Obama said in his last speech that his run for presidency was about me and my future. This field-trip is important because I will be better off for having gone to Washington because the experience will be a part of me until I grow old. This field trip is important because I can tell my children and grand-kids one day I was there and I was a part of history.

### *Leadership*

Strong leadership will show me and other little kids what we do and how to do it. This trip is about history, discipline, respect, and honor. This is the time for strong leadership. The leader must set a good example so that the others can follow. As I learn and move up to higher grades like 6<sup>th</sup> grade I will be a leader who shows discipline and respect but always be respectful of others. I will try to be like Barack Obama and not let it be about me, but more of what I can do for others. I will always do my best and never give up. I will listen and learn how to be a good leader. I will stand with other leaders and take responsibility.

### *Examples from the Leaders*

This is the day that I must set a good example for kids younger than me. We need to show the little kids how to be better, at everything they do. We set an example by letting the little ones see us work hard. By our example, we show the little kids how to be leaders. It is the leader's responsibility to help get the other children ready for the next grade. The younger kids are looking upon the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders as prime examples of excellence, discipline, respect, and honor.

### *My Goal*

My goal is to be a good citizen of the school and get good grades. My goal is to demonstrate the best of myself and others. My goal is to make the honor roll every quarter and study hard so I can be smart. This means I will pay attention and follow the directions of my teachers. My goal is always to be respectful.

### *Why do I want to go on this trip?*

I want to go to this trip because this is my opportunity to see Barack Obama. This is also the only opportunity to go to a place like Washington D.C. where all the presidents have lived. Plus, I have never been there before. I want to go to Washington D.C. to see the sights, like the Lincoln Memorial and the U.S. Capitol. I also want to see the White House. I want all this knowledge so I can meet my goals. I want to see Barack Obama recite his acceptance speech and become the 1<sup>st</sup> African American President of the United States of American. This is why going to the Inauguration is important to me.

**Olliah, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Attending the presidential inauguration is important to me because I would love the chance to meet the president of the United States. I want the chance to ask him questions like "How tough was it to run for president? How will you deal with the problems in Iraq? Do you get to have any fun when you are the president? Do you have the biggest bedroom in the White House? What is your favorite food?" I am sure that the president would be busy during the inauguration but if he had time these are some of the things that I would like to know.

I would be so pleased if I was one of the children who are chosen to go to Washington D.C. to see the inauguration of the next president of the United States. I have never been to Washington D.C. or to a presidential inauguration before and I would be so thankful if I could tell everyone that I had the chance to go to Washington D.C. and I had the chance to go to the inauguration. I would be so excited to see all of the history in Washington D.C. This trip means a lot to me and I would be so thankful if I had the opportunity to go. I would be so happy and proud of myself.

Going to the inauguration is important to me and I think that I have earned this trip. I am a smart and intelligent young lady. I have worked hard in school and I get good grades. I respect myself, my classmates, and my teachers and I believe that I will represent Frazier Preparatory Academy well. If I am chosen to go to the inauguration I will come home and brag to my family about the amazing time I had. I will show my family all of the pictures that I took and tell them about everything that happened just like they were there too. It is important for me to go to the inauguration because if I go I think that it will change my life forever.

**Quinnyata, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Who wouldn't want to attend the 2009 Presidential Inauguration? This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I would get a chance to see crowds of people from all over the United States cheering for the 44<sup>th</sup> President. I would hear the excitement at the swearing in ceremony and see the crowds of people celebrating at the parade. I want to go to Washington D.C. so I can see the nation's historical sites and monuments. I want to go to this inauguration because it is history in the making. If John McCain is elected, Sarah Palin will become the first female vice-president. This will affect me because I am a female and women have fought hard for equality. If Barack Obama is elected, I will see the first African American president get elected and this affects me because I too am African American.

While in Washington, I look forward to seeing our nation's historical sites and monuments. One of the things I would like to see there is the Lincoln Memorial. I want to see this monument because Abraham Lincoln played a major role in ending slavery. I also want to visit the Supreme Court to see where important decisions are made. I also look forward to the chance to see the White House and hopefully take a tour of the inside.

Going to Washington D.C. will give me the chance to witness a lot of history. If John McCain wins the election then Sarah Palin would become the first female vice-president. If this happens, Sarah Palin would show the world that females can do anything and can even do what men can do too. Sarah Palin has been an inspiration to a lot of women and set an example for young girls to never give up.

If Barack Obama becomes the president, he will be the first African American president of the United States. That will affect me very deeply because I am African American. African Americans have struggled for so long and a victory for Barack Obama would let me know that change is happening. Watching

Barack Obama makes me believe that anything is possible. Barack Obama inspires me because he grew up on the south side of Chicago and it is an honor to have someone from the same city and state that I live in reach this point. If he doesn't become president we will always remember that he was the first African American that was nominated for president. Barack Obama has set an example for all races that you can do whatever you put your mind to and race does not have to hold you back.

Who wouldn't want to go to the presidential inauguration? I know I want to go! I want to be one of the representatives from Frazier Preparatory Academy. I want to see the crowds of people from all over the United States cheering for our 44<sup>th</sup> President. Just the thought of being there gives me chills! I don't want to hear about it, I want to experience it! If I am not selected out of the 100 students in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade combined, I will support whoever gets picked as they represent Frazier Preparatory Academy.

### **Tehavis, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Attending the Presidential Inauguration is so important to me because it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to go and see history. This event is so special and magnificent because the last time we saw history like this was over 40 years ago, with the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I can't believe that I would be in the same spot where he gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. I'm just so speechless for this event because as African Americans, we have come through so much like slavery, racism, and the Civil Rights Movement. As we have fought through that we have an African American candidate running for the presidency of the United States of America. I can't believe it, can you?

I want to attend this special and magnificent event because I really want to see and be there when history unfolds, whether it is because of the first ever woman vice president or the first African American to hold the highest office of our country. I would be overjoyed either way but it would really mean something special to me if I am there to see Barack Obama become the first African American to become president.

This event is so great because when I get older I can tell my children and grandchildren and anyone else who would listen, that I attended the presidential inauguration. I am so grateful to God, my family, myself (for making good choices), and Frazier Prep Academy for giving me this special chance and opportunity to attend such a special event. I would enjoy attending the inauguration because it would definitely be a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. It would be my first airplane ride and my first visit to Washington D.C. I would be so excited that I wouldn't be able to sleep for weeks! Getting a chance to see the president make his most important promise to the United States would be very exciting.

I am so happy and grateful for everyone that helped me get to this point. My family is so proud of me for what I've become and what I have done. My family is just overjoyed for me because in their lifetime they have been through racism, the Emmitt Till tragedy, Dr. King's assassination and the list goes on. They are just speechless as I am that I might witness history. I can't even tell you, my heart is pumping so hard! I am asking and begging you to choose me to attend this special event.

Attending the presidential inauguration is so important because I have worked hard to become the kind of young man and student that I am. I really want to see history with my own eyes and I want to be a part of history. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

**Tyler, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

There are so many reasons that I would like to attend the presidential inauguration. One reason is that it will be an historic event. Another reason is I want to visit our nation's capital. Last but not least, I hope that Barack Obama is elected and I get the chance to meet him.

If Barack Obama is elected as president he will become our nation's first African American president. Barack Obama has already made history by becoming the nominee for a major political party. I believe that if Barack Obama is elected he will be a good president for all Americans. I believe that he will help us to come together and get along better with other countries.

If I am selected to go to Washington D.C. I will be able to visit the George Washington and Abraham Lincoln monuments. I will get the chance to see the place where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. It was forty years ago when Dr. King gave this famous speech. Many people say that this is a special year because an African American is running for president. It is not about skin color though, it is about who can do the best job for our country and serve all Americans. That is what Dr. King wanted for everyone.

If Barack Obama wins this election I would love to get the chance to meet him while in D.C. I think that he is a very smart man and I enjoy listening to his speeches. I watch him on television and I know he would make a great president. I feel that he really cares about all Americans. Barack Obama will be fair to everyone. I think that he will do good things for our country like fix the economy and make sure that everyone has good jobs, education, and healthcare. If Barack Obama wins the election I want the chance to shake his hand and congratulate him.

I really want the chance to be a part of history. Going to Washington D.C. would be the best trip of my life. If I get to go to the inauguration, it is something that I will never forget.

**Zaria, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Attending the presidential inauguration would encourage me to be in politics and one day become the president of the United States. If I were old enough to vote, I would vote for Barack Obama. When he said "it's time for a change" he means it is time for a change; a change that will come by lowering taxes, gas prices, and making sure that we have better schools. Going to the inauguration to hear Barack Obama speak if he wins will be as important to me as getting an education.

Attending the presidential inauguration is important to me because I want to be able to hopefully see the first African American become our president. I think that Barack Obama is trustworthy and many people look up to him as a role model. Attending the inauguration is also important to me because I get to be in the presence of Barack Obama and listen to what he has to say about our country and the economy.

This inauguration is very important to me because Dr. Martin Luther King encouraged everyone to follow their dreams and if you do, they will come true. If you try hard, you can do anything. I think that Barack Obama is working hard to make his dream come true. I think that he follows after what Dr. King tried to teach everyone. It is my dream to go to Washington D.C. and I have been working hard to do all that I can to make it on the trip to the inauguration.

Every since I was about nine years old I wondered if we would ever have an African American president. Now I feel like this is possible since Barack Obama is running. I feel that Barack Obama is a man that we can trust and I believe that he will be able to save our economy. I also believe that Barack Obama will help to end the war so that we can have peace. If Barack Obama wins it will make history but will also be like a dream come true for me.

Going to the presidential inauguration would make me feel great! If I get to go to Washington D.C. and see the presidential inauguration it will not just make me happy but it will make my family happy too. They want me to experience this history and they would be very proud of me. If I get picked to be one of the twenty-four I will be very proud of myself. Some people think that politics and government is boring, but to me it is very important. I want to be in Washington when history is made.