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Perry High Student Wins National Monologue Competition



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Perry High School senior Trajan Clayton won first place in the nation at the August Wilson Monologue Competition held May 6 in New York City. He was presented the award by Broadway director Kenny Leon. Clayton presented a selection from August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*.

"I can't believe the opportunities that I've had during my participation in August Wilson's Monologue Competition," says Clayton. "It has truly shown me that anything is possible if you believe and do the work! And at the end of the day, all you can do is all you can do!"

Clayton's drama teacher, Joe Sendek, said "Trajan is proof that when big dreams can come from little towns, those dreams can come true. Trajan gave everything he had and sought help from his peers and directors to perfect his performance. He has a big future ahead of him and I am proud to have been part of his journey!"

Clayton participated in the school district's [13 Reasons Why Not](#) video series, a campaign about hope and resiliency. Learn more about his story by watching his video, "[My Past Does Not Define Me](#)."

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company hosted the event, which chronicled the African American experience through the 20th century. Each play was set in a different decade. The purpose of the competition is to inspire students in grades 10, 11 or 12 to use theatre to express themselves. The event includes workshops for students to hone their acting and storytelling skills with theatre professionals offering feedback. The [August Wilson Monologue Competition](#) was founded in 2007 and is in 12 cities nationwide, to include Atlanta.

This is the second year that Perry High has participated in this competition. Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Wesley "Del" Martin serves as principal. For more information, contact Sendek at Joseph.Sendek@hcbe.net.

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