

# Peace Essay Contest 2006

*Reaching beyond our fears and taking positive action can go a long way toward preventing conflict and creating an atmosphere of trust and hope in our communities and our world.*

## Awards

	1st place	2nd place	3rd place
Division I	\$150	\$100	\$ 50
Division II	\$150	\$100	\$ 50
Division III	\$ 75	\$ 50	\$ 25
Division IV	\$ 75	\$ 50	\$ 25

## Divisions I & II (Grades 9-12)

Building peace in our homes, our communities, and our world requires us to face the parts of human nature that can work against peace. The 2006 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on how giving in to fear can get in the way of efforts to create understanding and peace in our homes, our communities, and our world.

Fear can be a powerful force in our lives. In a positive way, fear can warn us of danger and motivate us to act, thrill us with a rush of excitement, or push us to work harder to overcome obstacles. In a negative way fear can dominate the decisions we make and the actions we take. Being afraid can immobilize us when we need to act or drive us to react in a way that makes the situation worse.

Our natural discomfort with unfamiliar people and situations can escalate into unwarranted fear. Others may play on these fears to increase mistrust and suspicion. This can lead to justifying actions that intensify conflict and hinder peaceful resolution.

1. In the first part of your essay of 500-1000 words:
  - Tell about a situation in which fear has had a negative impact. You may draw from personal experience, literature, films or media, current or historical events.
  - Explain the negative consequences that resulted.
  - Reflect on ways that the people involved could have overcome their fear and taken thoughtful action to prevent negative consequences.
2. Then, in the second part of your essay, identify ways in which you (or a group you are involved in) can resist attempts to use fear to further personal or political agendas. Include positive, non-violent actions that would contribute to a safer, healthier and more peaceful world and foster relationships based on trust and hope rather than the negative power of fear.

For more information, email:  
[peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)

## Divisions III & IV (Grades 5-8)

The 2006 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on how giving in to fear can get in the way of efforts to create understanding and peace in our homes, our communities, and our world.

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1. In the first part of your essay of 250-500 words:
  - Tell about a situation in which being afraid has had a negative impact. You may draw from personal experience, literature, films or media, current or historical events.
  - Explain the negative consequences that resulted.
2. In the second part of your essay, think about and describe ways that the people involved could have overcome their fear and taken thoughtful action to prevent negative consequences.
3. Conclude by describing something you can do to move beyond fears in your life so that you are able to take constructive action.

Deadline for entries:

**December 2, 2005**

Notification of winners:

**Mid February, 2006**



# Peace Essay Contest 2006

## Rules

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students attending any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced. Use one side of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly.
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. DO NOT use a separate title or cover page.
4. Attach a "3 x 5" index card with your name, school, school address, school phone number, grade, and teacher's name on the index card. YOUR NAME SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Mail all entries, postmarked no later than December 2, 2005, to:

2006 Peace Essay Contest  
Modesto Peace/Life Center  
P.O. Box 134  
Modesto, CA 95353-0134

## Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays. Judging guidelines include:

### I. Content:

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. How useful/practical/well-developed are the ideas?
- C. Does it address the given topic?

### II. Style:

- A. Is the essay original and interesting?
- B. Is it written with conviction?
- C. Does the personality of the writer come through?



### III. Clarity of expression:

- A. Are the ideas clearly stated?
- B. Is the essay well-organized?
- C. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?

### IV. Mechanics:

- A. Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
- B. Does the author cite all quotes, borrowed ideas, and the facts that are not general knowledge?
- C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome.

The writer of the best essay in a division from a school which has ten or more entries in that division will be honored as the school winner. All participants will receive a Certificate of Participation.

## Notification of Winners

In mid February, 2006, winners will be notified. Prizes will be presented at the Awards Reception in March. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

**2006 Peace Essay Committee:** Margaret Barker, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Suzanne Meyer, Deborah Roberts, and Sandy Sample.

**Email: [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)**