

...no one of us is as smart as all of us...love your neighbor as yourself...don't hit people...
 ...play fair...clean up your own mess...be part of the solution...share...don't take things that aren't yours...action, not reaction...
 ...whatever you do, give it your best...stay in school...everything is related...cooperation, not conflict...use words, not fists...
 ...honesty is the best policy...practice random acts of kindness..be thankful..live simply...

Peace Essay Contest



2007



Sometimes the most important truths in life appear simple and straightforward, as the examples on the border of this flyer suggest. In most cultures, we learn them at a young age, recognizing that these simple truths or principles can help people to live together in peace and understanding, solving conflicts nonviolently.

Putting these principles into practice, however, is not always popular and requires a commitment that goes beyond pleasing only ourselves and others around us.

The *2007 Peace Essay Contest* invites students to examine the important principles in their own lives they know to be true. If put into practice, these principles would lead to better understanding between people and a more peaceful world.

Division I (grades 11-12) and Division II (grades 9-10)

In the first half of your essay of 500-1000 words:

- 1) Describe one important truth or principle that you think would help to make the world a better, more peaceful place.
- 2) Explain how and where you learned it;
- 3) Share how you try (or want to try) to live out this principle in your life.
- 4) By describing a real life situation, give an example of where the practice of this principle would improve your school, community, or world. Be sure to show how the principle you chose encourages people to live together more peacefully, taking better care of each other and/or our world.

In the second half of your essay:

Consider how your commitment to this truth might influence your choices about your future such as what you might study, your career paths, where and how you might live, leisure activities, community involvement, care of the environment, how you earn and spend your money, etc.

Then describe the areas of your life that you think this truth will impact most concretely. Explain how these life choices will contribute to better understanding between people and a more peaceful world.

Division III (grades 7-8) and Division IV (grades 5-6)

In your essay of 250-500 words:

- 1) Describe one important truth or principle that you think would help to make the world a better, more peaceful place.
- 2) Explain how and where you learned it;
- 3) Share how you try (or want to try) to live out this principle in your life.
- 4) By describing a real life situation, give an example of where the practice of this principle would improve your school, community, or world. Be sure to show how the principle you chose encourages people to live together more peacefully, taking better care of each other and/or our world.

Deadline for entries:

December 1, 2006

Notification of winners:

Mid February 2007

Awards

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division II	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division III	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$15
Division IV	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$15

For more information, email:
peaceessay@juno.com

Peace Essay Contest 2007

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 1, 2006, to:
**2007 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 quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
- C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?



Email: peaceessay@juno.com

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 2007, 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.

2007 Peace Essay Committee: Margaret Barker, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Russ Matteson, Suzanne Meyer, Deborah Roberts, and Sandy Sample.

The 21st Annual Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750