

# Peace Essay Contest 2017

## Rules & Submission Directions

- 1 The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend 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, using 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. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
- 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 Print & complete the Entry Form and attach to the front of your essay (may be found at: <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com> OR [www.stanislausconnectons.org](http://www.stanislausconnectons.org) OR email [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)).
- 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 Entries may be delivered to the **Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm November 16 - 17 - 18, 2016.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 18, 2016** to:

2017 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 (in order of weight) include:

1. **Content**
  - A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
  - B. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop their ideas?
  - C. Does the essay address the given topic?
2. **Style**
  - A. Is the essay original and interesting?
  - B. Did the student establish and maintain a formal writing style?
  - C. Does the voice of the writer come through?
3. **Clarity of Expression**
  - A. Is the topic introduced clearly?
  - B. Is the essay well organized with a clear introduction and conclusion? Is the essay well organized with clear transitions from one idea to the next?
  - C. Are the ideas clearly stated with factual support?
4. **Mechanics**
  - A. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and a formal style?
  - B. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
  - C. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
  - D. 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. Up to 3 Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome; however, a student may only enter one essay.

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 late February, 2017, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

**2017 Peace Essay Committee:** Indira Clark, Steve Collins, Nancy Haskett, Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner, Jann Spallina and David Tucker  
This **30th Annual Peace Essay Contest** is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by: Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College

## 2017 Peace Essay Contest

**Everyone has the right to have a place they call home.**

Every community has many individuals and families experiencing homelessness -- sleeping on the street, in a car, in a shelter, or some other place. As the number of homeless people has grown, each community struggles with ways to deal with this situation. Sometimes residents view this as an unsolvable problem and blame the homeless instead of working toward solutions -- solutions that will work for all and build a sense of community instead of fostering resistance and resentment.

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Peace Essay Contest challenges students to research and consider why people become homeless and then to focus on one specific plan that might help to improve this issue by creating a sense of "home" for everyone in the community.

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

By talking with others and researching, gain an understanding of both the common reasons why people become homeless and solutions which have been tried in various communities throughout our country. In an Argument essay of 500-1000 words, do the following:

- Focus on one reason why people become homeless in our area. Then, create your own plan that would address this particular reason in order to decrease homelessness in our community. Be creative! Think outside the box!
- Describe this plan in detail. By using specific examples and reasons, explain how your plan would decrease homelessness. If your plan includes participation by a government agency, local groups, community volunteers, or homeless people themselves, include those details. In addition, explain what part you would like to play in implementing this plan.
- Anticipate an argument against your plan and provide logical, well-developed reasons to show that your idea is strong and realistic, while a different approach has weaknesses.
- Provide a strong conclusion that supports your plan and shows how it fosters a sense of "home" for everyone in the community.

You might consider these resources: recent articles in the *Modesto BEE* and *Stanislaus Connections*; articles online which describe plans that have been tried in other communities; your own, personal experiences with someone who has been homeless; books you have read about this issue.

To qualify for an award, your essay must answer each part of the prompt. Each essay will be judged on the quality of the writing, the strength of the argument you make in support of a specific plan to reduce homelessness, and the personal connection you make to this plan. At the end of your essay, please provide a list of sources you used in your research; do not include graphics (e.g. charts, tables).

**Deadline for Entries: November 18, 2016 Notification of Winners: February 28, 2017**

<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	<b>Honorable Mention</b>
<b>Division I</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Division II</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$50</b>

Download: flyers / entry forms / submission rules <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com>

View information: [www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org) OR [www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest](http://www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest)

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### Division III (Grades 7-8)

By talking with others and researching, gain an understanding of why people become homeless and some solutions which have been tried in various communities throughout our country. In an Argument essay of 250-500 words, do the following:

- Focus on one reason why people become homeless in our area. Then, create your own plan that would address this particular reason in order to decrease homelessness in our community. Be creative! Think outside the box!
- Describe this plan in detail. By using specific examples and reasons, explain how your plan would decrease homelessness. If your plan includes participation by a government agency, local groups, community volunteers, or homeless people themselves, include those details. In addition, explain what part you would like to play in implementing this plan.
- Anticipate an argument against your plan and provide logical, well-developed reasons to show that your idea is strong and realistic, while a different approach has weaknesses.
- Provide a strong conclusion that supports your plan and shows how it fosters a sense of "home" for everyone in the community.

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Division I	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division II	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25

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### Division IV (Grades 5 and 6)

By talking with others and researching, gain an understanding of why people become homeless and solutions which have been tried in various communities throughout our country. In an Opinion Piece essay of 250-500 words, do the following:

- Think about reasons why people become homeless in our area. Focus on one reason and then create your own plan that would address this particular reason in order to decrease homelessness in our community. Be creative! Think outside the box!
- Describe this plan in detail. By using specific examples and reasons, explain how your plan would decrease homelessness. If your plan includes participation by a government agency, local groups, community volunteers, or homeless people themselves, include those details. In addition, explain what part you would like to play in implementing this plan.
- End your essay with a strong conclusion that supports your plan and shows how it helps to create a sense of "home" for everyone in the community.

You might consider these resources: recent articles in the *Modesto BEE* and *Stanislaus Connections*; articles online which describe plans that have been tried in other communities; your own, personal experiences with someone who has been homeless; books you have read about this issue.

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**Peace Essay Contest 2017 Entry Form:**  
**(to be completed and stapled to the front of your essay)**

Fill out this form in clear, legible printing:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Finalists are awarded a Tee shirt. Please give us your size. (adult size)

Small \_\_\_ Med \_\_\_ Large \_\_\_ X Large \_\_\_

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

**Your name should NOT appear anywhere on or in your essay)**



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(cut here)

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