



2016 Peace Essay Contest

We do not have to become heroes overnight. Just a step at a time, meeting each thing that comes up... discovering we have the strength to stare it down.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Our world is filled with many kinds of peaceful heroes. Some are well-known men and women while others quietly work behind the scenes. Some deal with international situations while others work in their own communities. Acts of courage, special skills or talents, visionary thinking, and self-sacrifice are qualities these people possess, rather than the extraordinary powers of super heroes that are glorified in the media. The experiences of these peacemaking heroes are sometimes told in songs and stories, but only a few make the history books or headlines. The focus of each person's work may be different, but they all share a commitment to use nonviolent principles and actions to encourage and care for a more peaceful world.

The 2016 Peace Essay Contest challenges you to find and describe one of these peacemaking heroes who is **living** today and whose work has made the world a better place. You may find them in your family or neighborhood, in your community or nation, or in places all over the globe. Working for peace may be their chosen life's passion, or perhaps your hero simply saw a need to respond creatively to a crisis. In their work for peace, some of the things they may have used include words, music, science, determination, diplomacy, hope or heart.

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

By talking with others and researching, choose a **living** peaceful hero who has helped to make our world a more fair and peaceful place. In an **informative** essay of 500-1000 words, do the following:

- Introduce this peacemaking hero. Describe who this person is and how they have worked for peace and justice. Share the specific nonviolent, non-military actions that are part of this person's peacemaking heroism. Explain what motivated or inspired this person to become involved in their work.
- Develop the description of your hero in more detail. Identify and discuss the principles or values that have guided this person's efforts. Develop your description thoroughly by selecting the most significant and relevant events as well as the challenges they faced in their peacemaking work. Be sure to include specific examples of their acts of courage, including citations to literature and/or insightful quotations when appropriate.
- In your conclusion explain why you think the work of this living peacemaker is significant for our world today, and how the work of your hero might influence your future life or inspire you to act for peace.

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 case you make in support of the peacemaking hero or heroine, and the personal connection you make between the work of this person and your own life. 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 20, 2015 Notification of Winners: Late February, 2016

| AWARDS | 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place | Honorable Mention |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Division I | \$300 | \$200 | \$100 | \$50 |
| Division II | \$300 | \$200 | \$100 | \$50 |

View, download/print the flyers and entry form at www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest or www.stanislausconnections.org
 Email your questions to: peaceessay@juno.com





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

By talking with others and researching, choose a ***living*** peaceful hero who has helped to make our world a more fair and peaceful place. In an **informative** essay of 250-500 words, do the following:

- Introduce this person and explain what they have done as a peaceful hero. Be sure to include facts and examples, specific details, and any quotations that would help the reader get a complete picture of this person's actions.
- Explain the situation or personal experience that inspired this person to take action. Then, focus on one or two challenges they faced and explain how they dealt with these issues.
- In your conclusion, explain why you think the work of this peacemaking hero is important. Tell how their example might influence your future life or inspire you to act for peace.

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 case you make in support of the peacemaking hero, and the personal connection you make between the work of this person and your own life. 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 20, 2015 Notification of Winners: Late February, 2016

| AWARDS | 1st Place | 2nd Place | 3rd Place | Honorable Mention |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Division III | \$150 | \$100 | \$50 | \$25 |
| Division IV | \$150 | \$100 | \$50 | \$25 |

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Peace Essay Contest 2016

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: www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest OR www.stanislausconnectons.org OR request a copy via email at: 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**
- 9 **November 18 - 19 - 20, 2015.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 20, 2015** to:

2016 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, 2016, 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.

2016 Peace Essay Committee: Indira Clark, Elaine Gorman, Nancy Haskett,
Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker
This **29th 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

Peace Essay Contest 2016 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 _____

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

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



(cut here)

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