

## PLEASE POST

17TH ANNUAL PEACE WRITING CONTEST FOR San Diego COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS  
2008—2009

# “What Can My Generation Do To Help Create a Peaceful World Free of War and Violence?”

“True peace is not merely the absence of war, but it is the presence of justice.”

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*

“Peace is respect for the rights of others.”

*Benito Juarez, past president of Mexico*

“You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”

*Mahatma Gandhi*

### OPEN TO

All San Diego City and County high school students, grades 9-12

### AWARDS

#### *Category I*

Essays: Top 5 essays, \$100 each.

#### *Category II*

Creative Writing (poem, story, Play, etc.): Top 5, \$100 each.

### FOCUS

The tragic terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, as well as incidences of violence on school campuses, challenge us to find ways that violence can be ended. Where do we go from here? Students are asked to address the question, “What Will My Generation Do to Help Build a Peaceful, Nonviolent World?” with creative ideas about how to end the injustices that fuel hatred, intolerance and violence and how to use nonviolent means to resolve conflicts. Entries may be essays or creative writing. (See “Ideas for Getting Started” on the reverse side.)



### 2007-2008 Winners

Allison Cardwell, SD High School

Sienna Crespín, SD High School

Anayeli Garcia, SD High School

Michele Gill, SD High School

Asia Hernandez, SD High School

Daniel Knapp & Nick Edele  
SD High School

Francisco Madrigal, SD High School

Ryan McCabe, SD High School

Monica Perez, SD High School

Auralee Walmer, Pt. Loma High School

### RULES:

*Entries will be judged on*

1. Clarity
2. Originality
3. Depth of thought
4. Writing skill.

All entries, when submitted, become the property of San Diegans for a Peaceful World/Peace Resource Center. None will be returned.

*All entries must*

1. Include a cover sheet with name, age, school, grade, home phone number, address, and teacher's name.
2. Be typed or printed.
3. Be reviewed by a teacher.
4. Be submitted in triplicate.
5. Not exceed 1,000 words.
6. Only one entry per student per category may be submitted.

### DEADLINE:

**All entries must be received no later than Friday, March 20, 2009.**

### SEND TO:

High School Peace Writing Contest  
c/o Peace Resource Center  
3850 Westgate Place  
San Diego, CA 92105

High School Peace Writing Contest is a project of the Peace Resource Center of San Diego.  
For more information, please call the PRC at 619-263-9301.

# Suggestions for Getting Star

## IDEAS TO THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS BEFORE WRITING

1. There are many types of conflict—some obvious, some subtle. What kinds of words and actions lead to conflict?
2. Why do people use violence to resolve conflict? How can people learn to solve their problems nonviolently?
3. What conflicts have you experienced and how did you deal with them? What worked? What didn't work? What else could you have tried?
4. There are many forms of injustice. What injustices have you experienced or observed and how did they lead to conflict?
5. What kinds of conflict are created when people aren't selected for teams, clubs or social groups?
6. What stereotypes or judgments are common on your campus and how can they lead to conflict?
7. What is the impact of the power imbalances in our society created by differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, class, wealth, culture, or religion? How do these imbalances lead to conflict and do they restrict options for nonviolent conflict resolution?
8. What role does the media play in helping us form reactions to injustices and conflicts that we may experience or observe?
9. What role does the media play in helping us form reactions to injustices and conflicts that we may experience or observe?
10. Why do countries choose war as a method of resolving conflicts? What alternatives are available?



## POSSIBLE APPROACHES

Imagine  
Brainstorm  
Interview  
Research

## THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUOTATIONS

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

*Article 1*

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

“The strong man is the man who can stand up for his rights and not hit back.”

*Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr*

“Only one individual is necessary to spread the leavening influence of nonviolence in an office, school, institution, or country.”

*Mahatma Gandhi*

“Give to every other human being right that you claim for yourself—that is my doctrine.”

*Thomas Paine*

“Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold. It will not remove the pain of torture inflicted on a prisoner of conscience. It does not comfort those who have lost their loved ones in floods caused by senseless deforestation in a neighboring country. Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.”

*The Dalai Lama*