

## PLEASE POST

16TH ANNUAL PEACE WRITING CONTEST FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS  
2005—2006

# “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*

### FOCUS

Violence and conflict are all around us. The terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, the continuing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as incidences of violence on school campuses and in our communities, 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 Create a World Free of War and Violence?” 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.)



### OPEN TO

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

### AWARDS

#### *Category I*

Essays: Top 7 essay  
\$100 each.

#### *Category II*

Creative Writing (poem, story, play, etc.): Top 7, \$100 each.

### 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 the High School Peace Writing Contest. 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 Tuesday, April 25, 2006.

### SEND TO:

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

# Suggestions for Getting Started

## 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 a hate crime? Have you experienced or witnessed a hate crime? What can be done to promote tolerance and respect for diversity?
8. 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?
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 every 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*

