

PLEASE POST

18TH ANNUAL PEACE WRITING CONTEST FOR San Diego COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS
2009—2010

“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.)



2008-2009 Winners

Harshal Bhakta, Pt. Loma High School
Jack Bowman, Point Loma High School
Justo Caballero, Pt. Loma High School
Jasmine Ellis, Point Loma High School
Rachel Rodeheaver, Pt. Loma High School
Alexandra Scott, Point Loma High School
Roxanne Terry, San Diego High School
Lauren Wieszorek, Point Loma High School
Heather, Juvenile Court and Community School
John, Juvenile Court and Community 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 19, 2010.

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 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 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. Why do countries choose war as a method of resolving conflicts? What alternatives are available?

Some Resources to Help You

Non-Violence: The History of a Dangerous Idea, Mark Kurlansky

Unintended Consequences: The United States at War, Kenneth J. Hagan & Ian J. Bickerton
“A Force More Powerful,” PBS Documentary tracing the history of nonviolent conflicts around the world



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