

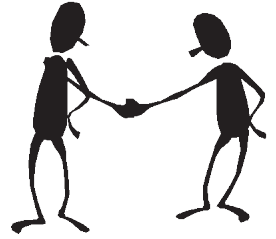


2012



Peace Essay Contest

Every person is deserving of respect and has a responsibility to respect others.



INTRODUCTION:

Respecting others is an important part of getting along, whether at home, with friends, with co-workers or among countries. To respect someone is to show consideration and high regard for the worth of that person. If we value another person, we do not intentionally hurt him/her in any way. Every person is deserving of respect and has a responsibility to respect others.

Small children are often encouraged to "use their words" to solve their relationship problems instead of hitting others. While learning to control ourselves physically is an important part of growing up, we also need to learn to control our words. We can be just as violent by using words to attack others as we can by using our fists. Verbal violence has become a common means of bullying others in our world. Verbal violence is not only the use of "mean" or "ugly" words, but the use of words chosen and spoken intentionally to intimidate, manipulate or hurt another person. The use of threats, put downs, name-calling, teasing, gossiping, starting rumors and purposely embarrassing others are all forms of verbal violence in our society from the playground to the workplace. Even if disguised as humor or friendly teasing, using words to gain a sense of power over others is simply another form of bullying.

Division III (grades 7-8)

The 2012 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on your own experiences observing verbal violence. (This may occur in your home, at school, or in public places such as a park or store). Think about a time when you heard someone else being bullied verbally. In your essay of 250-500 words:

- Briefly describing the situation you observed.
- Tell how you felt as a bystander.
- Explain several reasons why you or others might hesitate to intervene when you see or hear someone being bullied.
- Thinking back over the situation, describe something that you or someone else might have done to prevent or end the bullying.
- Wrap up your essay by expressing how working to prevent and/or stop verbal violence will make the world a better and safer place in which all people are treated with respect.

Deadline for entries:

November 18, 2011

Notification of winners:

Mid-February 2012

Division IV (grades 5-6)

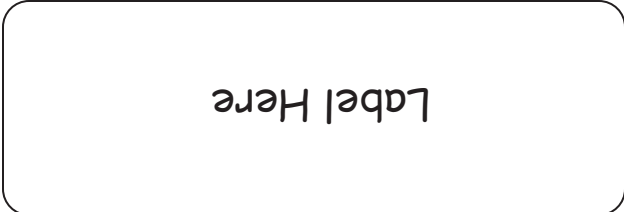
The 2012 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on your own experiences observing verbal violence. (This may occur in your home, at school, or in public places such as a park or store). Think about a time when you heard someone else being bullied verbally. In your essay of 250-500 words:

- Describe the situation you observed.
- Tell how you felt as a bystander.
- Thinking back over the situation, describe something that you or someone else could have done to prevent or end the bullying.
- Wrap up your essay by expressing how working to prevent and/or stop verbal violence will make the world a better and safer place in which all people are treated with respect.

Awards

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

For more information, email:
peaceessay@juno.com



Peace Essay Contest 2012

Rules

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. Use 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.
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. Attach a "3 x 5" index card with your name, school, grade, teacher's name and principal's name on the index card. **YOUR NAME SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
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 mailed or delivered to the Modesto Peace/Life Center. Mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 18, 2011**, to:

2012 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:

I. Content:

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. How well-developed are the ideas?
- C. Does it address the given topic?

II. Style:

- A. Is the essay original and interesting?
- B. Is it written with conviction?
- C. Does the personality of the writer come through?

III. Clarity of expression:

- A. Are the ideas clearly stated?
- B. Is the essay well-organized?
- C. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?

IV. Mechanics:

- A. Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
- B. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
- C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?



Email: peaceessay@juno.com

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 three Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome.

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 mid-February 2012, winners will be notified. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2012 Peace Essay Committee: Margaret Barker, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner, and David Tucker

This 25th 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