

2009 Peace Essay Contest



How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*
Young German Jewish diarist (1929-1945)

Our world is filled with a variety of peacemakers. Some make the headlines while others quietly work behind the scenes. Some deal with international situations while others work in their own communities. They may be as close as a family member or next door neighbor or as far away as someone on the other side of the globe. The focus of each person's work may differ, but common to all peacemakers is a commitment to using nonviolent principles and actions to nurture and encourage a more peaceful world. The 2009 Peace Essay Contest invites students to study living peacemakers in our community and throughout our world. Each writer will then nominate one of these peacemakers, whose work inspires them, to be the 2009 Peacemaker of the Year.

In preparation for writing your essay, broaden your awareness of people who have committed their lives to nonviolent peacemaking. Resources like the local newspapers and their archives, talking with community leaders for suggestions, utilizing the school and public libraries and the internet are great places to start. You may click on *Peace Essay* on the Stanislaus Connections website for a beginning list of peacemakers to spark your exploration.

(<http://www.stanislausconnections.org/>)

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

In the first part of your essay of 500-1000 words, nominate a living person for Peacemaker of the Year.

- Describe how the person has worked for peace and justice. Share the specific nonviolent, non-military actions that are part of this person's peacemaking.
- Explain what motivated or inspired this person to become involved in this work.
- Identify and discuss the principles or values that guide this person's efforts.
- Express why you think the work of this living peacemaker is significant for our world.
- Tell how the work of your nominee for peacemaker might influence your future life and actions.

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 for the person you nominate as Peacemaker of the Year and the personal connection you make between the work of your nominee and your own life

Deadline for entries:

December 5, 2008

Notification of winners:

Mid-February 2009

For more information, email:
peaceessay@juno.com

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

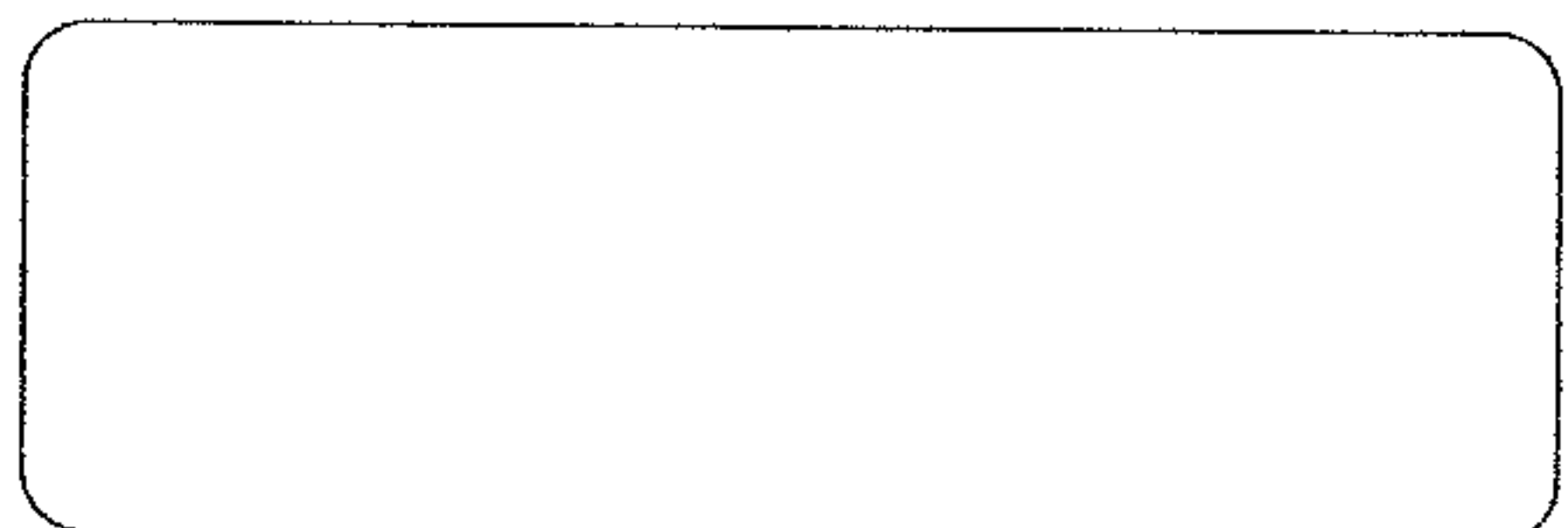
In an essay of 250-500 words, nominate a living person for Peacemaker of the Year.

- Describe how the person has worked for peace and justice. Share the specific nonviolent, non-military actions that are part of this person's peacemaking.
- Explain what motivated or inspired this person to become involved in this work.
- Express why you think the work of this living peacemaker is significant for our world.

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 and the strength of the case you make for the person you nominate as Peacemaker of the Year.



Awards	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division II	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division III	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25
Division IV	\$150	\$100	\$50	\$25



Peace Essay Contest 2009

Rules

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students attending 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, and teacher'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. Mail all entries, postmarked no later than December 5, 2008, to:

2009 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 in early February. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

I. Content:

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. How useful/practical/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 2009, 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.

2009 Peace Essay Committee: Margaret Barker, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Russ Matteson, Suzanne Meyer, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample and Shelly Scribner

The 23rd Annual Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750