



# 2018 Peace Essay Contest

Bearing different memories, honoring different heritages, immigrants have strengthened our economy, enriched our culture, and renewed our promise of freedom and opportunity for all.”

~Bill Clinton, 42<sup>nd</sup> President of the United States

Throughout United States history, millions of people around the world have left their homelands for a chance to start a new life in this country—and they continue to come here to this day. People who come to live in a new country are called immigrants.

Over the past 400 years, immigrants have had many different reasons to come to United States. Some came to escape war, others for the freedom to practice the religion of their choice. Still others came for the opportunity to own land or simply for a chance to work and escape poverty. Those immigrants we call refugees have come because the conditions in their homeland had become unlivable.

Over the centuries, the United States, and its people, have been more welcoming to some immigrants and refugees than to others. Immigrants must overcome the obstacles of leaving their homelands and all that is familiar to them. Once in the United States they face the challenges of adapting to a new culture, language and lifestyle.

Immigration has added to original Native American cultures a diverse mix of the practices, traditions, customs, and knowledge from a variety of homelands. The United States has become a uniquely diverse culture with the opportunity to represent the best from many lands around the world.

The 2018 Peace Essay Contest invites students to research, write, and submit a fictional narrative essay addressing this prompt and following the submission rules:

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

Imagine what it might be to live in another country and need or want to leave your homeland to come to the United States. Write a fictional narrative that shares the story of a person from another country coming to the United States today as either an immigrant or refugee. Familiarize yourself with some of the conditions around the world today that might create the desire to immigrate and choose a country of origin for your character. Research the immigration/travel process and the experiences that might occur upon arrival. In your narrative of 500 - 1,000 words:

- 1) Introduce your “made-up” character, explaining who he/she is, their age, where they are from and why they need or want to leave their homeland. Give enough background information to make the narrative a realistically possible experience in light of today’s current events.
- 2) Include the experiences your character faces coming to the United States;
- 3) Give details about the challenges your character experienced when he/she arrived in the US.
- 4) Describe the experiences that that made your character feel welcomed and/or uneasy about their new location.
- 5) End your narrative by having your character share his/her hopes for the future.

**Deadline for Entries: November 17, 2017 ~ Notification of Winners: Feb. 28, 2018**

**Download flyers/entry forms/submission rules:**

<http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com>

**View information:**

[www.stanislausconnections.org](http://www.stanislausconnections.org)

**OR**

[www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest](http://www.facebook.com/PeaceEssayContest)

<b>AWARDS</b>	<b>1st Place</b>	<b>2nd Place</b>	<b>3rd Place</b>	<b>Honorable Mention</b>
<b>Division I</b>	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
<b>Division II</b>	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50

**Email questions to:** [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)



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## Divisions III (grades 7-8) & Division IV (grades 5-6):

Imagine what it might be like if you live in another country and need or want to leave your homeland to come to the United States. Write a fictional narrative that shares the story of a person from another country coming to the United States today as either an immigrant or refugee. Research the country of origin, the immigration/travel process and the experiences that might occur upon arrival. In your narrative of 250-500 words:

- 1) Include the experiences your character faced coming to the United States;
- 2) Give details about the challenges your character experienced when he/she arrived in the United States.
- 3) Describe the experience(s) that made your character feel welcomed and/or uneasy about their new location.
- 4) End your narrative by having your character share his/her hopes for the future.

## Deadline for Entries:

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Email questions to: [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)

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

# Peace Essay Contest 2018 Entry Form:

(to be completed and stapled to the front of your essay)

Essays must be received or postmarked by: **November 17, 2017**

Fill out this form in clear, legible printing:

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Principal's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Finalists are awarded a t-shirt. Please give us your size. (adult sizes)

Small \_\_\_\_ Med \_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_ X Large \_\_\_\_

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER**

Your name should NOT appear anywhere on or in your essay!

(cut here) ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

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## Essay Contest 2018

### Rules & Submission Directions

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who 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, using 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. **YOUR NAME OR IDENTIFYING INFORMATION SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
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. Print & complete the Entry Form and staple to the front of your essay. Form may be found at:  
**<http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com> OR [www.stanislausconnectons.org](http://www.stanislausconnectons.org) OR email request: [peaceessay@juno.com](mailto:peaceessay@juno.com)**
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 delivered to the **Modesto Peace/Life Center, 720 13th St., Modesto, from 2pm-5pm on November 15 - 16 - 17, 2017.** You may also mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 17, 2017** to:

**2018 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:

- 1. Content**
  - A. Does the narrative clearly address the assigned topic?
  - B. Does the narrative demonstrate a concern for the immigrant/refugee and an understanding of what they may experience as they move to a new homeland?
  - C. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop their ideas?
- 2. Style**
  - A. Did the student establish and maintain a narrative writing style?
  - B. Is the narrative original and interesting?
  - C. Does the voice of the writer come through?
- 3. Clarity of Expression**
  - A. Does the narrative have a distinguishable introduction and conclusion? Is the narrative well organized with clear transitions from one idea to the next?
  - B. Are each of the requested points of the narrative included?
  - C. Are the ideas clearly stated with factual support?
- 4. Mechanics**
  - A. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and an engaging narrative style?
  - B. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
  - C. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
  - D. Does the narrative stay within the word limit?

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 3 Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome; however, a student may only enter one essay. 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 late February 2018, winners will be notified through the student's teacher. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

**2018 Peace Essay Committee:** Indira Clark, Steve Collins, Nancy Haskett,  
Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner, Jann Spallina and David Tucker

This **31th 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**