

## Division II (Grades 9 /10)

## Division I (Grades 11 /12)

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 the 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:

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.

## Division II Grades 9 & 10

| Student             | School                 | Teacher           |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>First Place</b>  |                        |                   |
| Ciara Bargas        | Modesto HS             | Maggie Monjure    |
| <b>Second Place</b> |                        |                   |
| Emily Swehla        | Modesto HS             | Maggie Monjure    |
| <b>Third Place</b>  |                        |                   |
| Reza Banankhah      | Independent Student    | Susan Janis       |
| <b>Finalist</b>     |                        |                   |
| Gabriela Ambriz     | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| George Brady        | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| Carson Carranza     | Modesto HS             | Maggie Monjure    |
| Brian Estrada       | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| Gladys Hernandez    | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| Emily Machado       | Central Catholic HS    | Suzi Guina        |
| Janeth Ramirez      | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| Maryam Sabri        | Whitmore Charter HS    | Virginia Aguilera |
| Grecia Sanchez      | Ceres HS               | Tracy Pannell     |
| Seth Simmons        | Oakdale Charter HS     | Jessica Menefee   |
| Lydia Stiles        | James Enochs HS        | Chris Hayden      |
| Misbah Syed         | Connecting Waters Char | Lisa Bender       |

## Division I Grades 11 & 12

| Student                  | School                | Teacher         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| <b>First Place</b>       |                       |                 |
| William Foote            | Turlock High          | Abbi Snider     |
| <b>Second Place</b>      |                       |                 |
| Aimee Gundlach           | Independent Student   | Susan Janis     |
| <b>Third Place</b>       |                       |                 |
| Matthew Hesse            | Turlock High          | Abbi Snider     |
| <b>Honorable Mention</b> |                       |                 |
| Adam Gundlach            | Independent Student   | Susan Janis     |
| Schuyler Becker          | Whitmore Charter High | Kelly Hayes     |
| Mehar Nijjar             | Modesto High School   | Glenn, Kerrie   |
| <b>Finalists</b>         |                       |                 |
| Melissa Alcazar          | Hughson High          | Karalee Ruelas  |
| Shelby Benz              | Modesto High          | Glenn, Kerrie   |
| Bibiana Garcia           | Hughson High          | Karalee Ruelas  |
| Valeria Hinojosa         | Ceres High            | Ben Middleton   |
| Stephanie Ino-Cox        | Oakdale Charter High  | Jessica Menefee |
| Ryan Jetton              | Ceres High School     | Ben Middleton   |
| Karina Jimenez*          | Ceres High School     | Ben Middleton   |
| Sophia Kline*            | Hughson High          | Karalee Ruelas  |
| Brett Lopez              | Hughson High School   | Karalee Ruelas  |
| Lexa Ludlow              | Oakdale Charter High  | Jessica Menefee |
| Caleigh Martella         | Hughson High School   | Karalee Ruelas  |
| Jillian Murray           | Oakdale Charter High  | Jessica Menefee |
| Desiree Silva            | Oakdale Charter High  | Jessica Menefee |
| Kaylee Taylor            | Hughson High          | Karalee Ruelas  |

**\* School Winner**

School Winners are recognized for the top essay from a school submitting 10 or more essays in the Division

## Division III Grades 7 & 8

| Student                  | School                     | Teacher          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>First Place</b>       |                            |                  |
| Rana Banankhah           | Independent Student        | Susan Janis      |
| <b>Second Place</b>      |                            |                  |
| Stephen Romano*          | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| <b>Third Place</b>       |                            |                  |
| Mora Collins             | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| <b>Honorable Mention</b> |                            |                  |
| Lauren Bowman            | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| Victoria Blanc*          | Oakdale Jr HS              | Dee Hawksworth   |
| Aidan Pink               | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| <b>Finalists</b>         |                            |                  |
| Jeslyn Chavez            | La Loma Jr HS              | Juana Rosas      |
| Joseph Edwards           | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| Francis Evans            | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| Jason Fritz              | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| Ashlin Hartley           | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |
| Emiliano Lopez*          | Yolo Middle School         | Brandi Decator   |
| Evelyn Martinez*         | Turlock Jr HS              | Jill Harlan-Gran |
| Abbygail Morales         | Prescott Sr Elementary     | Maia Tobin       |
| Skylar Nguyen*           | Prescott Sr Elementary     | Maia Tobin       |
| Kate Oliveira            | Sacred Heart Elem, Turlock | Elaine Magni     |
| Alexandra B Ortiz        | Oakdale Jr HS              | June Botto       |
| Ximena Perez*            | Sacred Heart Elem, Turlock | Elaine Magni     |
| Jordan Robinson          | Prescott Sr Elementary     | Maia Tobin       |
| Matthew Swehla           | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis      |

**\* School Winner**

School Winners are recognized for the top essay from a school submitting 10 or more essays in the Division

## Division IV Grades 5 & 6

| Student                  | School                     | Teacher            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>First Place</b>       |                            |                    |
| Heidi Bowman*            | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis        |
| <b>Second Place</b>      |                            |                    |
| Bailey Chistopher        | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis        |
| <b>Third Place</b>       |                            |                    |
| Joanna Hoffmann          | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis        |
| <b>Honorable Mention</b> |                            |                    |
| Marcella Coleman         | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis        |
| Pooja Dubey*             | Lakewood Elementary        | Carrie Ann Burrows |
| Nolan Cheek              | Hart-Ransom Acad Charter   | Susan Janis        |
| <b>Finalist</b>          |                            |                    |
| Yousuf Ahmed             | Hickman Charter            | David Meyer        |
| Kaydence Bispo           | Lakewood Elementary        | Carrie Ann Burrows |
| Sutton Edeal             | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Toni David         |
| Jordan Henry             | Sonoma Elementary          | Gina Grgich        |
| Ali Hou                  | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Toni David         |
| Lorraine Mansell         | Hart-Ransom Acad Chtr      | Susan Janis        |
| Nathalia Martinez        | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Michelle Danner    |
| Stella McDaniel          | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Toni David         |
| David McCann*            | Daniel J. Savage Middle    | Kari Caviness      |
| Jacob Miller             | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Toni David         |
| Chelsea Paul*            | John Fremont Open Plan     | Todd Brownell      |
| Ari Sello*               | John Fremont Elementary    | Dorene Arnold      |
| Maddie Turner            | Hart-Ransom Acad Chtr      | Susan Janis        |
| Jared Warter*            | Agnes Baptist Elementary   | Michelle Danner    |
| <b>School Winner</b>     |                            |                    |
| Elyse Munoz*             | Salida Middle School Vella | Cara Ornellas      |

\*School winners are awarded to the top essay in a school submitting 10 or more essays in a division

## *Special Thanks to 2017 Screeners and Judges*

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Beth Au                 | Rachel Tyson        |
| Sara Branly             | JoAnn Melo          |
| Indira Clark            | Carol Miller        |
| Michale Cline           | Gil Moss            |
| Luella Cole             | Tom Myers           |
| Jim Costello            | Dan Onorato         |
| Karhla Davies           | Linda Owen          |
| James Feeney            | Annamary Peck       |
| David Franklin          | Jeanne Pollard      |
| Leah Silvestre Franklin | Deborah Roberts     |
| Phil Franklin           | Sandy Sample        |
| Nancy Haskett           | Linda Scheller      |
| Peggy Hoover            | Shelly Scribner     |
| Linda Knoll             | Zaid Shlah          |
| Andrew Kranzman         | Julie TenBrink      |
| Judy Kropp              | David Tucker        |
| Linda Lagace            | Marianne Villalobos |

*T-Shirts  
Fall Fundraiser  
Photographers  
Refreshments*

*Peggy Hoover  
John Frailing & Maria Arevalo  
John & Lyn Lucas  
Peace Life Committee*

**Division III (Grades 7/8)****Division IV (Grades 5/6)**

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.

Over the past 400 years, immigrants have had many different reasons to come to the 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:

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.

**First Place - Division I**

**William Foote**  
**Turlock High   Abbi Snider**  
**CON NUOC, CON TAT**

**First Place - Division II**

**Ciara Bargas**  
**Modesto HS   Maggie Monjure**  
**I AM ALIVE**

**First Place - Division III**

**Rana Banankhah**  
**Independent Student   Susan Janis**  
**LIBERTY OR DEATH**

**First Place - Division IV**

**Heidi Bowman**  
**Hart Ransom   Susan Janis**  
**FLEEING FOR SAFETY**

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Zaid Shlah M.C.  
Professor of English  
Writer*

## CONGRATULATIONS AND CERTIFICATES

*US Representative Jeff Denham 10th CA State  
Senator Tom Berryhill, 14th District  
CA State Senator Anthony Cannella, 12th District  
CA State Senator Cathleen Galgiani, 5th District  
CA State Assemblymember Adam Gray, 21st  
District  
CA Assemblymember Heath Flora 12th District*

## PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

*Leng Nou, Presenter  
Board President, Modesto Peace / Life Center*

*~ CLOSING ~ REFRESHMENTS ~*

## And Still They Come.....

*Millions of people from 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. Some come to escape war, others for the freedom to practice the religion of their choice. Still others come for the opportunity to own land or simply for a chance to work and escape poverty. These peoples 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. The 2018 Peace Essay Contest invites students to consider the story of these travelers, how and why they came to America, the challenges and experiences they face and their hope and fears for the future.*

## *The Modesto Peace/Life Center*

For over 47 years the Modesto Peace/Life Center has been working to promote peace, social and economic justice, and a sustainable environment in our community, country and the world. Besides this Peace Essay Contest, the Center sponsors a number of other events:

**Earth Day** Graceada Park. Sat April 21 10 am - 4:30 pm  
Peace/Life Center Booth with buttons, bumper stickers, and more.  
Contact: Ken Schroeder, 480-4576.

**Annual Pancake Breakfast** Sun, June 3 8:00 am till noon.  
Church of the Brethren, 2301 Woodland Ave., Modesto,  
Enjoy a scrumptious breakfast with wonderful variety of pancakes,  
and meet good people all to raise funds for Peace Center programs.

**Family Peace Camp** June 22 – 24 Fri afternoon through Sun  
Camp Peaceful Pines on the Clark's Fork in the High Sierra.  
Activities for adults and young people.  
Relaxation, fun, and recharging for all.  
Contact: Ken Schroeder, 480-4576.

**Harvest Gathering** (October)

**Holiday Potluck Song Fest** (December)

**John McCutcheon Music Concert** (Jan/Feb).

**Vigil for Peace and Economic Justice** (the first Wed)

**Modesto's Martin Luther King, Jr. Event, Jan/Feb)**

On-line newspaper, **Stanislaus Connections**

The Center is committed to helping make a better society and world through nonviolence. We welcome everyone who wants to join us in this vital work. Thank you for your involvement in the 2018 Peace Essay Contest. Your encouragement of a child's thinking and writing contributes to our becoming a more thoughtful, kind and peaceful society.

To learn more:

Check out our website online: <http://peacelifecenter.org/> ,  
Check out the newspaper <http://stanislausconnections.org/> ,  
Look at our online videos at <http://vimeo.com/user9154856/> videos ,  
Call the Center at 529-5750.

## *Special Thanks to Our Donors*

**Steve and Solange Altman**  
Margaret Barker  
Kay Barnes  
Mary Baucher  
Julia Bolton & John Mensinger  
Marsha & David Bradford  
Marjorie Brooks  
Sylvan & Nancy Bupp  
Central Valley Democratic Club  
Mike & Jana Chiavetta  
Indira Clark  
Jim & Bonnie Costello  
Leroy & Pat Egenberger  
Glenore & Raymond Flanders  
John Frailing & Maria Arevalo  
Pam & Philip Franklin  
Friends, Delta Meeting % Judy Bunting  
Elaine Gorman  
Marylou Hacker-Rousseau  
A. Roy & Merlys J.B. Larson  
John & Lynn Lucas  
Julius & Barbara Manrique  
Modesto Teachers Assn. Inc  
Tom Myers  
Pat Noda  
Dan & Alice Onorato  
Gene Palsgrove & Marcia Baylis  
Bill & Cathie Peck  
Jay Holmes and Jeanne Pollard  
Maria Potochnik  
David Rockwell & Nancy Smith  
Mimsie Farrar & Kenneth J. Schroeder  
Shelly Scribner  
Stanislaus CRTA Div #38  
Ruby Ten Brink  
Julia Ten Brink  
David Tucker & Linda Lagace  
Chyрил Turner

## *2018 Awards Reception*

*Friday, March 2, 2018*

Sponsored by:  
Modesto Peace/Life Center



**720 13th Street • P.O. Box 134 • Modesto, CA 95353**  
**and**  
**Division of Literature and Language Arts**  
**Modesto Junior College**  
**2018 Peace Essay Committee**  
**Indira Clark Steve Collins Nancy Haskett Peggy Hoover**  
**Linda Lagace Deborah Roberts Sandy Sample**  
**Shelly Scribner David Tucker**