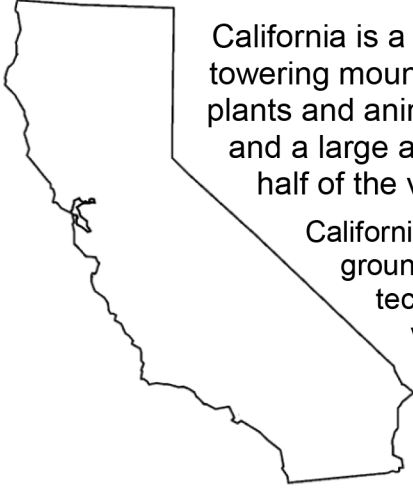


# 2019 Peace Essay Contest



California is a diverse and incredible place to live. From the lowest desert to the towering mountain peaks, the multitude of eco-regions are home to a vast variety of plants and animals as well as humans. Over 800 miles of coastline grace our state and a large agricultural economy produces two thirds of all the fruits and nuts and half of the vegetables grown in the U.S.

California has big cities as well as a landscape dotted by small towns. It is a testing ground for renewable energy and is well known for being on the cutting edge of technology. California has the largest public university system in the nation as well as world-renowned public and private universities.

California has a history that includes people from many ethnic groups around the world, who each bring unique experiences & perspectives to our state. A wide range of languages, traditions, stories, arts and music can be found among Californians.

Numerous categories make up the whole experience of a state. Political, environmental, wildlife and land conservation, ethnic diversity, job opportunities, health and social services, education, and housing are just a few. Within each of these categories are the day-to-day experiences of the people who call this state their home.

Wildfires, mudslides, drought and earthquakes are all hazards of living in California. In addition to dealing with these occurrences, we must successfully meet the challenges of creating a community that allows people to live and thrive safely together.

The 2019 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on the many positive things living in California offers and to also think about what might need to be improved. Write your essay of **500-1000 words** following the prompt below:

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

**Begin** your essay by briefly describing what makes you glad to live in California.

Considering the general categories listed in the introduction, or adding one of your own, choose a specific area that you think could be improved to provide a better quality of life for those who live in California. Do some research about your choice. Then, continuing your essay,

- **Identify and describe** the specific area that concerns or worries you.
- **Share** some ideas from your research that might help improve it.
- **Explain** why this improvement would make a positive difference in the lives of Californians.

**Conclude** your essay by explaining how working to improve life in our state is an important step toward creating a more just and peaceful world. (Include your word count at the end of your essay.)

## **Deadline for Entries:**

**November 16, 2018 ~ Notification of Winners: Late February 2019**

**Essays that are outside of the directed word count will not be considered for judging.**

**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)

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

<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