

2021 Peace Essay Contest

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead, Anthropologist
Recipient of the Planetary Citizen of the Year Award, 1978.



Division I (Grades 11-12) & Division II (Grades 9-10): 500-1000 words

Division III (Grades 7-8) & Division IV (Grades 5-6): 250-500 words

Regardless of whether you agree with others on the specifics of the challenges that the American people are facing, we can all agree that 2020 has been an unusual year. When life is bewildering, it is easy to fall into despair over the many things that seem wrong and hard to deal with. We forget that in spite of all the confusion and hardships, many people continue to be dedicated to peacefully making our world a better place for all who inhabit it.

It is a big task. One of the ways this is accomplished is by working with, or supporting, an organization dedicated to a particular concern. In spite of the restrictions of the Covid19 pandemic, many of these organizations have found innovative ways to keep working--adapting and changing their approach--in order to continue to be effective. Their constructive contributions offer hope that we, as Americans and as global citizens, can move through this difficult time and into a brighter future.

The 2021 Peace Essay Contest invites you to think about the needs in our world today. Then find out about a local, national or international organization that is working to meet one of those needs. In your essay,*

- Describe a need that exists in our world today.
- Introduce an organization you found that is working to address that issue and describe how they are going about it.
- Explain why you think their work is important.
- Tell how you think the accomplishments of this organization promote peace and well-being for our world.

*Please, write in your own words. Do not cut and paste or copy directly from source material.

A very limited amount of directly quoted words may be used if cited properly.

See **2021 Peace Essay Rules and Submission Directions** for complete information.

Deadline for Entries: DECEMBER 15, 2020 Notification of Winners: Late March, 2021

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

Download the flyers/instructions at <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com/> Email questions to: peaceessay20@gmail.com

Peace Essay Contest 2021 Rules & Submission Directions

The 2021 essays are to be submitted electronically
except for Division IV, who may submit paper essays.

Entries must use the online form as part of the submission process.

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who attend any public, private, or homeschool in Stanislaus County.
2. Complete the online Entry Form, which must contain a correct **Student Essay ID code** that includes a teacher number available from your teacher.
3. Submit one copy of your essay via email. Use a pdf file attachment according to the Instructions for Submission below.
4. Essays must be typewritten, double-spaced, single-sided on white 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. Number the pages. Your name, school or any other identifying information should not be on or in the essay.
5. **Your Student Essay ID code must be on the top right hand corner of the first page of your essay.** When you have completed your essay save it as a PDF file, which you will then submit.
4. Put an essay title at the top of the first page. Do not use a separate title or cover page.
5. **IMPORTANT:** Place the word count at the end of your essay before your Works Cited. Do not include your Works Cited as part of the word count. Essays that are 25 words beyond the designated word limit will not receive consideration for finalist ranking. Start your Works Cited directly after the word count, not on a separate page.
6. Identify your sources for any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge by placing the name of the source in parentheses in the text of your essay AND by creating a "Works Cited" section at the end of your essay with the appropriate identifying data including the addresses of websites you used to get your information. Do not base your entire essay on one source. Suggestions about how to choose reliable internet sources and correctly cite them are provided at <http://peaceessaycontest.weebly.com>
7. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
8. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
9. Special arrangements may be made to accept paper or handwritten copies for Division IV only (grades 5 & 6). Contact us at peaceessay20@gmail.com by Dec 10, 2020 if you wish to do so. These entries must be received by mail to Modesto Peace Life Center, P.O. Box 134, Modesto CA 95353 or by hand delivery to the Center, 720 D 13th St., Modesto no later than 5pm on Dec 15. We strongly encourage electronic submission of materials to the contest.

Judging

IMPORTANT: Essays that are 25 words outside the designated word limit will not be considered for final judging.

A group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays. Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

1. **Content**
 - A. Does the essay clearly address the assigned topic?
 - B. Does the essay show that the student researched their category and/or specific area of concern?
 - C. Has the writer used relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples to fully develop his/her ideas?
2. **Style**
 - A. Is the essay original and interesting?
 - B. Does the voice of the writer come through?
3. **Clarity of Expression**
 - A. Does the essay have a distinguishable introduction and conclusion? Is it well organized?
 - B. Has the writer attempted to use appropriate transitions, precise language, and an engaging style?
4. **Mechanics**
 - A. Are grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
 - B. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge? Is the source information listed in the essay itself and in a Works Cited at the end of the essay?

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each division having at least 15 entries. If there are fewer than 15 entries, any prizes in that division will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. 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 that 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

Winners will be notified through the student's teacher in late March 2021. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in April 2021. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor. The reception may be conducted via Zoom.