



2022 Peace Essay Contest

**"I have learned you are never too small to make a difference.
You must take action. You must do the impossible.
Because giving up is never an option."**

Greta Thunberg

Winner of the 2019 International Children's Peace Prize

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

The August 2021 report from the United Nations says that the changes in climate to date have little parallel in human history. The impact of these changes on our planet is causing significant damage to its habitats and ecosystems. Ocean levels have risen 8 inches on average over the past century. Heat waves have become hotter and last much longer around the world. Wildfire weather has worsened across large areas of the globe. Bursts of extreme heat in the ocean—which can kill fish, seabirds and coral reefs—have doubled in frequency since the 1980's. (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097362>)

While people and ecosystems around the globe are experiencing the results of these changes in our past climate patterns, certain populations will be especially vulnerable as the consequences of these changes impact their very existence. Due to the impact on food supplies, livelihoods, lands and health, peace among peoples around the world could be severely threatened as people struggle to survive.

When each of us embraces a deep reverence and gratitude for the earth that sustains us, we must also encourage others to do the same. "Inclusive and green economies, prosperity, cleaner air and better health are possible for all, if we respond to this crisis with solidarity and courage" says the UN Secretary-General António Guterres. (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097362>)

The 2022 Peace Essay Contest invites you to study and learn about some of the environmental extremes we are experiencing around the world due to the changes in our climate. Especially take note of those whose lives are (or will be) negatively impacted by these changes. In your essay*

- Identify and describe one of the negative environmental changes you studied.
- Explain who bears the consequences of the change and the effect it could have on their lives. For example, how does or could it affect their food supply, land, livelihoods or health?
- Tell what scientists believe has caused the negative change and what needs to happen to make it better or keep it from getting worse.
- Close by sharing your view about the importance of caring for our world and helping all people to live in a safe and sustainable way, thereby promoting peace and well-being around the 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 **2022 Peace Essay Rules and Submission Directions** for complete information.

Deadline for Entries: November 15, 2021 Notification of Winners: Late February, 2022

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