



2021 Peace Essay Contest

DEADLINE : TUESDAY DEC 15, 2020

Submit Entry Forms by online link on Entry Form Instructions

Submit Essays by email as a pdf file attachment, see instructions

October 1, 2020

To: The Participating Teachers
From: Peace Essay Contest Committee, Modesto Peace Life Center
Re: 2021 Peace Essay Contest

Dear Teacher,

We are pleased to introduce the 2021 Peace Essay Contest, our 34th annual event. This year's contest challenges students to think about the needs of the world and the organizations committed to helping meet those needs in spite of the challenges of the unusual times we are experiencing

Our committee aimed to provide a writing opportunity that fits in with your current classroom requirements. This essay's prompt was designed to align with the California State Standards of a general expository essay, where the student explores a topic, explains it to the reader, and puts forth an argument about it, i.e. how it promotes peace and wellbeing.

A key change this year, in light of the corona virus quarantine and the trend towards greater use of the internet and online technology, is our move towards a paperless system, as explained in the attached pages. They include:

2021 Peace Essay Contest Prompt

Rules and Submission Directions

Instructions for Submission of Online Entry Form & Essay Submission

Spreadsheet with your teacher number, which is part of the code used to submit and identify each essay

The contest is run by a host of volunteers and funded by donations from the community. We definitely appreciate the generosity of the Stanislaus County Office of Education and the individual school districts. We have appreciated your positive response to the prompts in the past and your constructive criticism and offering of ideas for future topics. The contest is supported and co-sponsored by Modesto Junior College Division of Literature and Language Arts.

Included in the attached material is a spreadsheet with your teacher number, which is part of the code your students will use to assure anonymity. The code assures that screeners and judges cannot identify any student, teacher or school, since only the data base administrator will have the codes. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. If you do not receive a spreadsheet, email me at peaceessay20@gmail.com and request a teacher number. Include your name and school.

Thank you.

David Tucker
peaceessay20@gmail.com

The 2021 Peace Essay Committee:

Indira Clark, Jillian Daly, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Peggy Hoover, Linda Lagace,
Colleen Norby, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker

Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750 and is co-sponsored by the Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College

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.

Instructions for Submission of Entry Form:

Data Needed on Entry Form

GL This is your grade level. It is a two digit number from 05 to 12. e.g Sixth grade GL=06

TECH This is your 4 digit teacher code which your teacher will give you.

FML These are the initials of your First, Middle and Last names

BD Day of your birthday This is a two digit number from 01 to 31.
If your birthday is March 5, your BD is 05

GLTECHFMLBD Your **Student Essay ID** Code, a code that combines the above symbols

Important Reminder:

The entry form also requires your first and last names, your teacher's last name, the word count of your essay and your t-shirt size (adult size). Make sure you have all this information before you click on the hyperlink below. The survey will not allow you to submit your entry if any information is missing.

CLICK OR COPY AND PASTE THIS HYPERLINK TO GO TO THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM

<https://forms.gle/vHSiTsykXaHnjdFQ8>

Instructions for Essay Submission

Your student should fill out and submit the entry form online.

All essays should be given a file name that is the same as the Student Essay ID code: i.e.: **GLTECHFMLBD.pdf**. This code must also appear on the top right hand corner of the first page of the essay. It is the same code entered on the online entry form.

There are two ways to submit essays.

1) Students could submit their essay in PDF format in an email to **peaceessay20@gmail.com**

OR

2) The teacher could submit the essays by sending multiple essays as attachments to an email or several emails sent to **peaceessay20@gmail.com** Each essay must be a separate file with its **GLTECHFMLBD.pdf** name.

If you see colleagues on your spreadsheet that do not show an email, please share this package with them. If your spreadsheet does not show a colleague, ask them if they are interested in the contest. If so, ask them to email me at **peaceessay20@gmail.com** and request a teacher number. Their request should show their name and school.

Exception For Division IV (grade levels 05 & 06) ONLY: Essays not able to be sent electronically

Your student should fill out and submit the entry form online. If this is not possible, please request a form that can be filled out by hand and submitted with the essay as a separate file. Make request to **peaceessay20@gmail.com**

Our preference is to receive student essays electronically. We will accept paper copies of essays and hand written essays for Division IV, if they are clear and legible. You must let us know by email by December 10 if you wish to mail or drop off copies. Student Essay ID code must be on the top right corner of the first page.