



2012



Peace Essay Contest

Every person is deserving of respect and has a responsibility to respect others.



INTRODUCTION:

Respecting others is an important part of getting along, whether at home, with friends, with co-workers or among countries. Consideration and high regard for others shows respect for them. If we value other people, we do not intentionally hurt them in any way. Every person is deserving of respect and has the responsibility to demonstrate respect for others. Communication in our world today is often done electronically through the use of social media and other internet applications. Cyber-bullying is a new form of disrespecting others that can reach a world-wide audience at the click of a keystroke.

DIVISION II (grades 9 & 10)

With the expansion of technology, positive opportunities to become and stay connected with others and expand your understanding of the world abound. However, there are also negative aspects in the form of cyber-bullying: using social media such as Facebook, You Tube and My Space, etc. to attack, insult, ridicule or verbally harass others through comments and photos posted on public space. Even if disguised as humor or friendly teasing, such posts can instantly spread to large numbers of people who may accept them as accurate. Cyber-bullying may have devastating effects on the emotional safety, reputation, and well-being of the person being targeted. The misuse of social media to gain a sense of power while disrespecting others is another form of bullying.

The 2012 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on your own experiences observing firsthand or hearing about hurtful/ disrespectful cyber-bullying, which might include name calling, spreading rumors, using discourteous language, posting photos without permission, etc.

In your essay of 500-1000 words:

- Briefly discuss what you consider to be positive aspects of using social networking technology as a way to become and stay connected with others.
- Choose and describe an incident you have heard about or experienced yourself where others use social media in a disrespectful way, i.e. cyber-bullying. Tell how you felt about the incident and why you consider this to be bullying.
- Explain how the ways people treat each other on social media affect their ability to live and work respectfully and peacefully face to face.
- Close your essay by describing how you can contribute to a more peaceful world by raising awareness among your peers about the harmful effects of cyber-bullying so that their use of technology is respectful of others.

Deadline for entries:

November 18, 2011

Notification of winners:

Mid-February 2012

Awards	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Honorable Mention
Division I	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50
Division II	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$50

DIVISION I (grades 11 & 12)

Social media and technology can be used to reach a wide audience to promote a particular point of view or agenda. It can be used to rally people and promote peaceful social change. Because of its ability to disseminate information instantly, messages and posts can reach a large audience and encourage others to join and support a plan of action. The results can be a large scale force for positive social or political change.

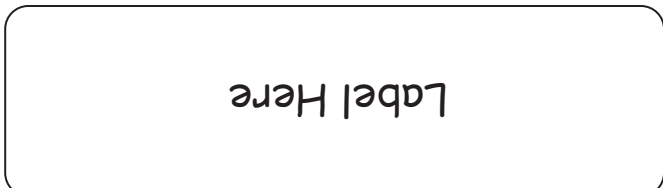
It can also be used by organizations, interest groups, corporations and governments to threaten and intimidate in order to gain political advantage or maintain power, taking cyber-bullying to a more organized and even global level. The quest for power may be pursued through threats or provocative actions, claims and counter claims, or language that ridicules or appeals to fears, but is not rooted in factual reality.

The 2012 Peace Essay Contest invites you to reflect on how advancements in technology are being used as a means of rallying support for peaceful social change **OR** as a method of gaining advantage and maintaining power through intimidation and threats.

In your essay of 500-1000 words:

- Explore how media and technology can be used to reach a wide audience to promote a particular point of view or agenda.
- Then choose **one** of the following options:
 - A.** Give an example of how social media or technology has been used on a regional, national or international level to encourage a cause or to rally people to stand up to bullying and promote a more peaceful resolution of issues.
 - OR**
 - B.** Give an example of how social media or technology has been used by organizations, interest groups, corporations or governments to bully or spread disrespectful agendas that threaten others and prevent a peaceful resolution of issues.
- Describe the intended outcome and whether or not the objective was achieved.
- Close by exploring what you think is both the value and limitation of social media and technology in striving for a more respectful and peaceful world.

For more information, email:
peaceessay@juno.com



Peace Essay Contest 2012

Rules

1. The Peace Essay Contest is open to all fifth through twelfth grade students who are residents of Stanislaus County or attend any public, private, or home school in Stanislaus County.
2. Submit one copy of your essay. Essays in Division I & II must be typewritten, double spaced. Essays in Divisions III & IV must be either typewritten or written in dark ink, double spaced. Use one side of white paper 8 1/2 x 11 inches. Number the pages consecutively. Your essay must be of a quality to photocopy legibly.
3. Give your essay a title. Place it on the first page where you begin your essay. **DO NOT** use a separate title or cover page.
4. Attach a "3 x 5" index card with your **name, school, grade, teacher's name and principal's name** on the index card. **YOUR NAME SHOULD NOT BE ANYWHERE ON OR IN THE ESSAY.**
5. Cite any quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge. If you are uncertain about plagiarism, ask your teacher.
6. You must do your own work. However, you may ask a teacher, parent, or friend for constructive criticism.
7. The Modesto Peace/Life Center reserves the right to reprint entries. Entries will not be returned.
8. Entries may be mailed or delivered to the Modesto Peace/Life Center. Mail all entries, postmarked no later than **November 18, 2011** to:

2012 Peace Essay Contest
Modesto Peace/Life Center
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 95353-0134

Judging

A distinguished group of local writers, educators, and peacemakers will judge the essays.

Judging guidelines (in order of weight) include:

I. Content:

- A. Does the essay demonstrate concern for establishing a more peaceful world?
- B. How well-developed are the ideas?
- C. Does it address the given topic?

II. Style:

- A. Is the essay original and interesting?
- B. Is it written with conviction?
- C. Does the personality of the writer come through?

III. Clarity of expression:

- A. Are the ideas clearly stated?
- B. Is the essay well-organized?
- C. Does it have an effective beginning and ending?

IV. Mechanics:

- A. Is grammar, spelling, and punctuation reasonably correct?
- B. Does the author cite all quotations, borrowed ideas, and facts that are not general knowledge?
- C. Does the essay stay within the word limit?



Email: peaceessay@juno.com

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the four divisions which have at least 15 entries. In the event that fewer than 15 entries are entered in any one division, all prizes may or may not be awarded in that division at the discretion of the judging panel. Up to three Honorable Mentions may be awarded in each division. Group entries (more than one author) are welcome.

The writer of the best essay in a division from a school which 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

In mid-February 2012, winners will be notified. Prizes will be presented at an Awards Reception in the spring. All participants, teachers, judges, and sponsors will be invited as guests of honor.

2012 Peace Essay Committee: Margaret Barker, Indira Clark, Pam Franklin, Elaine Gorman, Deborah Roberts, Sandy Sample, Shelly Scribner and David Tucker

This 25th Annual Peace Essay Contest is a project of the Modesto Peace/Life Center (209) 529-5750
and is co-sponsored by:

Department of Literature and Language Arts, Modesto Junior College