

ART & ESSAY CONTEST 2018

Dear Educators and Students,

Peace Islands Institute announces its **8th Annual Art & Essay Contest** for the middle and high school students in the State of New Jersey. Since its inception in 2010 PII's Art & Essay contest for grades 6-12 has reached a tremendous number of submissions each year. Due to this overwhelming response and since over 200 schools participate the board of PII has requested that we limit the submissions per school to **5 submissions per category in each grade.** Please visit our webpage (www.artandessay.org) for further guidance.

Sponsors: PSEG, Fountain Magazine, Star Ledger, Drew University

About the Contest:

PII helps to make New Jersey a stronger and more inclusive state by advancing the causes of peace, cross-cultural acceptance and human dignity in an effort to make the World a better place for all. PII believes that establishing dialog platforms is a means to appreciate diverse opinions and eliminate the stereotypes often assigned to 'others'. In this respect, the Art and Essay Contest is very instrumental in building bridges between New Jersey communities as well as other segments of the larger society.

To contribute to the improvement of diversity, pluralism and multiculturalism in society, PII organizes the "**Art & Essay Contest**" to instill some of these values among the youth of our state and to give them a forum with various platforms in which they can express their understanding and analysis of these values. The contest's objective is to make our future leaders aware of social issues at an early age and to think globally in efforts to alleviate these conflicts.

The contest consists of **2 categories; Art Contest and Essay Contest**, and is made up of 2 participant categories; **Middle school** (grades 6 through 8), and **High school** (grades 9 through 12). Each participant can compete in either or both of the Art and Essay parts. For more information about the contest and the location of the events you can visit PII's website: www.Peaceislands.org. And www.artandessay.org.

Each year we have a different theme. This year's theme is: "**Let's Celebrates Diversity Together**"

Definition of the theme and brainstorming worksheet:

Definition of Diversity

The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect, understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing that individual differences always exists. These differences can be along the lines of race, gender, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities, religious beliefs, political beliefs, etc.

Goals of the Contest:

To have students in middle and high schools think about and be involved in solving social problems and issues in our world today such as diversity, intercultural understanding and respect towards others as we want our future leaders to be aware of important values and social problems at an early age and to make themselves ready to solve these problems. This year's contest is geared towards an interdisciplinary approach to solving world and community issues relevant to New Jersey.

Participants may consider the following list of issues in preparing their work:

For the students to think about:

When planning your submission, it is important to think about the theme, ***“Let’s Celebrates Diversity together”*** in many different ways:

In other words, think about the following ...

- Who are the people that may be my neighbors or classmates? Do I really know them?
- From what countries do they/or their families originate?
- To what culture or belief system might they subscribe?
- Do I know anything about their journey in life?
- Do I know what they like to listen to, eat, when/what their cultural/religious holidays are, etc.?
- Why do I like/respect my neighbor/classmate if they are not like me?
- Why do I still like/respect my classmates although they differ in opinion?
- Why do I still enjoy helping those in need although they may belong to different culture, belief or they came from another country?
- Does addressing the idea of *diversity* help me grow as a person?
- Who will benefit from me if I appreciate and promote diversity?
- In appreciating and promoting diversity, what impact will I make/have in my home, school, and/or community?
- How would the world be different if everyone respected each other?
- Why would I like everybody to understand, accept and respect each other?

When composing your work, feel free to be creative. Just remember that whatever type of submission you choose, you want to create a work that makes the reader think and realize ***“Celebrating Diversity together”*** and that’s why we love New Jersey.

Participant Eligibility Requirements & Important Dates

Students at grades 6-12 from the State of New Jersey can enter the contest. Each student may submit only one work in each category.

1. Deadline for submissions of artwork by **May 11th, 2018.**
2. The names of winners will be announced on **June 6th, 2018.**
3. The awards ceremony time and venue will be announced soon.

Contest Awards for Each Category

High School (Grades 9 through 12)

1. First Place - \$500
2. Second Place - \$400
3. Third Place - \$300
4. 5 Honorable Mentions: \$100 each.

Middle School (Grades 6 through 8)

1. First Place - \$400
2. Second Place - \$300
3. Third Place - \$200
4. 5 Honorable Mentions: \$100 each.

Award Ceremony Venue

Exact place will be announced at a later time.

Contest Categories

1. Essay Contest

- a. Deadline for submissions of essay by **May 11th, 2018.**
- b. Essays must be original, unpublished, and written by the participant only.
- c. Each student may submit only one (1) essay.
- d. We ask teachers to sponsor students and guide them. We also ask them to mail essays on students' behalf. Each sponsoring teacher may not submit more than five (5) essays per grade in total.
- e. Each essay should be no more than 1000 words.

f. Each essay should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, and should not have any images in the document.

g. Essays may be one of the following types:

Informative Essay, Narrative Story, or True Story

h. The top three places and five mentions for each category of participants will have their names published on the PII website on **June 6th, 2018** and will receive their prizes at the award ceremony.

Each submission will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

- Grammar,
- The uniqueness of the piece,
- In depth understanding of the topic and its presentation,
- The style of writing
- The flow of the concepts
- How, in general, the essay approaches solving this problem in small communities and in the world.

i. Each submission must include

- Name
- Grade
- School
- Sponsoring Teacher's Name
- Sponsoring Teacher's E-mail
- Phone number

j. Participants consent to their work being used and copied by Peace Islands Institute for promotional and/or informational purposes.

k. Please note that in person submission is not acceptable. We ask sponsoring teacher to either mail or Email all essays in one envelope.

2. Visual Art Contest

a. The participants must mail their arts submissions by **May 11th, 2018**.

b. The names of prizewinners will be announced on the PII website and on the www.artandessay.org on **June 6th, 2018**.

c. Works of art that are ranked in the top 15 will be displayed during the award ceremony.

d. Participants may submit entries utilizing any medium in a 2-D format. Drawings, watercolors, oil paints, acrylic paints, collages mixed media accepted. (No sculptures or photographs)

- e. Submissions may be one of the following sizes: 16" X 16", 16" X 12", or 17" X 11"
- f. A jury of art professionals will judge the submitted works on the basis of the following:
- Uniqueness of composition
 - Creative/expressive use of materials
 - Artistry of execution
 - Integration of medium and message (overall impact of the visual idea)
- g. Each submission must have the following written on the back. The student's:
- Name
 - Grade
 - School
 - Sponsoring Teacher's Name
 - Sponsoring Teacher's E-mail
 - Phone Number
- h. Participant's consent to their artwork being used and copied by Peace Islands Institute for promotional and/or informational purposes should be enclosed.
- i. No artwork will be returned to students.
- j. Participant's consent in writing to their work being used and copied by Peace Islands Institute for promotional and/or informational purposes.

Announcements:

1. All Future announcements may be found on www.artandessay.org
2. All rights of submissions sent belong to Peace Islands Institute
3. Winners are responsible for his/her transportation to and from the ceremony.
4. Checks (Monetary Awards) will be made payable to the parents or legal guardians.

Contact Information

Peace Islands Institute

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FAQ:

1) Are photographs allowed for the Art category?

No, they are not allowed.

2) We are working on a mural, and we would like to submit that, but obviously it belongs to more than one student. Is this a problem?

No, unfortunately, we cannot accept murals.

3) Are schools outside New Jersey allowed to participate?

No, the contest is for all Middle and High School located only in New Jersey.

4) If I'm not able to make it to the Award Ceremony, what will happen to my prize?

You may pick it up from the PII's office located in Hasbrouck Heights, or we could mail it to you.