

The Sixth Annual Fellowship of Reconciliation Peace Essay Contest 2012

How nonviolent strategies could be used to accomplish one of the following:

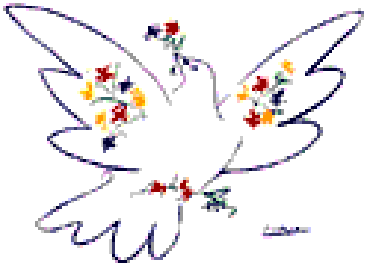
- ✓ Solve a specific national or international conflict in our nation's history
- ✓ End the use of child soldiers in conflicts around the world
- ✓ Reduce the bullying problem in our schools
- ✓ Invent new applications of social networking to solve future conflicts and bring positive social change

Winners Will Receive

- 1st place -- \$200
- 2nd place -- \$150
- 3rd place -- \$100
- 4th place -- \$ 50

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 1, 2012

***Interfaith Paths to Peace is a co-sponsor of the contest**



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Eligibility

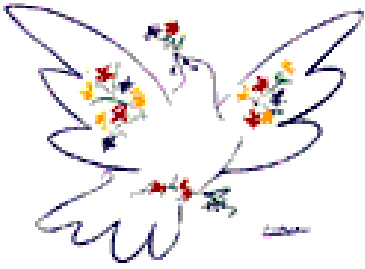
Students are eligible to participate if they are in grades nine through twelve of a public, private, or parochial high school in Jefferson County, KY on Friday, January 6, 2012.

Rules and Guidelines

General

- Your entry must address **only one of the four** contest questions. Your response must answer that question with a **nonviolent strategy**.
- The contest responses must reflect **original thought**. Any work that appears to plagiarize or contains information from someone else without proper documentation will be disqualified. Decisions by the judges will be final.
- All submitted electronic responses will become the property of The Fellowship of Reconciliation and will not be returned to the owner. By submitting electronic responses, all participants allow F.O.R. nonexclusive rights to use and publish the responses—in whole or in part—along with the winners' names and/or pictures.
- **Note to teachers:** This essay will qualify as an Informative-Explanatory and Argumentative writing assignment because:
 - it has a purpose; to inform and express an opinion,
 - it requires the author to state a position supported by solid research,
 - it will have a real audience; judges who will evaluate the essays, and possibly the Courier-Journal and FOR*sooth* readers,
 - **We have checked with Jennie Aberli (high school Literacy department chair) to make sure this essay does qualify as an Informative -Explanatory Assignment.**
- **For Essay Submissions--**
- All submissions must contain between **500 and 1000 words**.
- All submissions must include a **word count**, excluding the list of sources.
- Your essay must contain a **bibliography** that lists at least **three sources**. One of the sources must be a source other than the Internet. Encyclopedia citations are prohibited.
- **Do not place your name** or your school's name on any of the pages of the essay itself. All identifying information should be listed on the cover page, which should be page one of the essay file you submit.
- Submit your essay electronically (MSWord-compatible format) to:

foessaycontest@gmail.com



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Suggestions

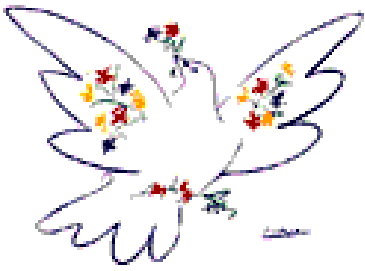
Your **essay** should contain the following:

- **An introduction**, which introduces the subject and contains an explanation of your position. The objective is to demonstrate that you understand the essay contest question and have formed a response to it.
- **A body**, which develops your argument using research and analysis. The process of analysis should include facts and historical research that support your argument. The body should also contain a detailed explanation of why your strategy will result in a safer, more peaceful, and more secure world. Expert opinions of government officials, military personal, or professionals with expertise in the area of foreign policy are also acceptable, but the focus is on your original thinking and analysis.
- **A conclusion**, which summarizes the research and analysis presented in the essay. Drawing on ideas already presented, you should demonstrate that your conclusions support the position you put forward in the opening paragraphs. Your aim is to convince the reader that your position is reasonable and valid.

Judging

When FOR judges evaluate your **essay**, they will have the following rubric in mind:

- **Focus:** Examines how well your response addresses the question while avoiding violence, and war in particular, as a solution. Does the work provide a specific and thorough response to the entire question?
- **Analysis:** Considers how well your arguments are supported. Are the points presented coherent and supported with research and reasonable explanations? Is the evidence convincing and supported by professional expertise? Does the essay show attention to possible negative consequences of the new alternative, and address ways to mitigate them?
- **Originality:** Does the response develop creative ideas through selection of historical evidence, successful precedents, alternative solutions, and reasonable possibilities? Is there evidence of novel thinking?
- **Voice:** Considers how well your writing engages the reader. Is the essay compelling and engaging? Is there a flow that keeps the reader engaged throughout the entire text?
- **Style and Mechanics:** Examines how well the essay is written in terms of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction. An excellent essay has eloquence, style, and a rhythm as the result of good word choice, all of which engages the reader.



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Questions

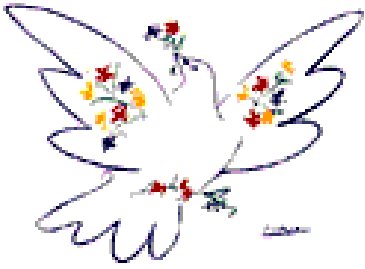
Choose one of these four questions and answer that question as thoroughly as possible. Please read the rules and guidelines before you begin.

Question 1: Often textbooks present history as a chronology of wars and the events leading up to those wars. Students are seldom given the opportunity to think about strategies that might have been explored to avoid a war. For example, some countries (such as Canada) have gained their independence without resorting to war.

- Choose a war that involved the United States or a war that currently involves our country.
- Briefly discuss the events leading up to that war, including economic and social factors.
- Explain how this war might have been avoided if some of those events had been interrupted and/or other nonviolent strategies had been used to settle the conflict.
- Describe how U.S. history might have been different if that war had never been fought.

Question 2: The use of child soldiers in armed conflict in many places around the world is a deeply troubling issue. The Brookings Institution estimated that child soldiers participate in about three quarters of all of the ongoing conflicts in the world (2003). Human Rights Watch estimated in 2007 that 200,000 to 300,000 children were serving as soldiers.

- Briefly describe the use of child soldiers in a specific twenty- first century conflict.
- Discuss the effectiveness of current international law regarding the use of child soldiers.
- Focus a major part of your essay on describing nonviolent strategies to work toward ending the use of child soldiers.



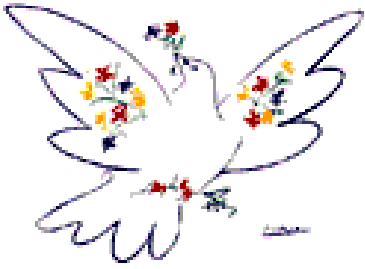
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Question 3: Bullying is widespread in American schools, according to a survey funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). "Being bullied is not just an unpleasant rite of passage through childhood," said Duane Alexander, M.D., director of the NICHD. "It's a public health problem that merits attention."

- Briefly describe an episode of bullying that you experienced, witnessed or heard about.
- Summarize what the current research indicates about the prevalence and impact of bullying.
- Focus most of your essay on proven nonviolent strategies that could decrease the incidence of bullying.
- Conclude your essay by applying the strategies from your research to your own school.

Question 4: How has modern technology (social networking, the Internet, etc.) affected the practices of nonviolent resistance and social change?

- Summarize the use of nonviolent tactics, and modern communications technology, by the participants in the Arab Spring protests.
- Explain how nonviolent tactics and modern communications technology could help resolve future conflicts and bring about positive social change.



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Cover Page Information to Submit with your Essay

Your cover page must include ALL of the following information to be eligible for judging:

- **Your name**
- The following certification paragraph:

“I certify that this essay is my own work and that I have abided by all the guidelines and requirements of the Fellowship of Reconciliation Peace Essay Contest. I understand that the essay will not be returned to me and will become the property of Fellowship of Reconciliation to use at its discretion. I understand that the judges’ decisions are final. “

- The Title of your Essay
- Your date of birth
- E-mail address
- School name
- Grade level
- Teacher’s name and contact information



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Get it in on time!

All entries must be submitted no later than **Thursday, March 1, 2012.**

Notification of Winners

All students submitting an essay will receive an e-mail from F.O.R. before the end of the 2011-2012 school year. If yours is a winning essay, the e-mail will contain instructions for receiving your prize and may request a picture and brief bio for publication with the essays. In 2011, awards were presented to the winning students in student assemblies at their schools. The top essays were published in the Courier-Journal and in FOR's monthly paper, FORsooth.

Thanks for entering and Good Luck!