



YWCA McLean County
1201 N. Hershey Rd.
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9th Annual Peace Essay Contest

Violence is often used to try to resolve conflict—in the home, at school, at work, and among nations. But there are many non-violent ways for resourceful people to resolve conflict and achieve peace. The YWCA McLean County and the Mennonite Churches of McLean County are sponsoring the 9th Annual Peace Essay Contest to address the problem of violence.

Applicant Eligibility

High school students in grades 9-12 within McLean County are eligible to participate.

Purpose

The Peace Essay Contest:

- Encourages students to explore peaceful solutions to conflicts
- Raises awareness of conflict situation
- Strengthens students' critical thinking and writing skills in addressing violence
- Looks at ways students can be proactive in pursuing alternatives to violence
- Encourages youth leadership and responsibility

Sample topics include (but are not limited to):

Category #1:

Peace on State and Local Issues

Domestic Violence
Child Abuse
Racism
Hate Crimes
Crime Prevention
Gangs
Drug Use
Bullying
Handguns

Category #2:

Peace on National and International Issues

Citizen Diplomacy
Use of the United Nations
Use of World Court
Avoiding Preemptive War
Establishing a Department of Peace
World Disarmament
Pursuing Peace as Patriotism
Early Identification of Problems and Aggressive Diplomacy

Awards

The following awards will be given for *both* categories—

Peace on State and Local Issues and Peace on National and International Issues:

First Place \$250
Second Place \$150
Third Place \$100

Deadline

Essays must be submitted to the YWCA by **4 pm on October 15, 2010.**

Submit essays by:

- Email the essay in a Word or Word-compatible electronic file to **nball@ywcamclean.org** or
- Mail to Norene Ball, YWCA, 1201 N. Hershey Rd., Bloomington, IL 61704

Winner Notification

Winners will be notified by **October 22, 2010.** Prizes will be awarded on **October 29** at the **Week Without Violence luncheon.**

Questions?

Contact Norene Ball at the YWCA with questions or for further information.

- Phone (309) 662-0461
- Email to **nball@ywcamclean.org**