

Art & Essay Contest 2014

Dear Educators and Students,

Peace Islands Institute announces its 5th 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 prominent number of submissions each year. The board later decided to limit the submissions 5 per teacher per grade, where more than 200 NJ schools are participating. You may find previous Award Ceremonies and winners at our webpage, www.artandessay.org.

Sponsors: PSEG, Star Ledger, Ebru TV

About the Contest:

PII aspires to make New Jersey a stronger and more prosperous state by advancing the cause of peace, cross-cultural tolerance and human values. PII believes that establishment of a dialog environment is a must to bring together diverse opinions and eliminate the stereotypes often used to label '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 society at large.

In order to contribute to the enrichment of diversity, pluralism and multiculturalism in the society, PII organizes the ART & ESSAY CONTEST that instils these values among the youth of our state and gives them a forum with various platforms where they can express their understanding and perception of these values. The contest's objective is to make our future leaders aware of social problems at an early age and think globally.

The contest consists of 2 categories; art and essay, 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 one or both categories listed below. For more information about the contest and the location of the events, you can visit PII's website: www.artandessay.org.

Each year we have a new theme. This year's theme is:

SAVE THE EARTH'S NATURAL RESOURCES: "Can Our Children Enjoy The Same Resources and Beauty That We Have Had for Generations?"

- **REDUCE waste by using less**
- **REUSE containers and other reusable products**
- **RECYCLE old products to make new one**

Definition of the Theme and Brainstorming worksheet:

When planning your submission(s), it is important to think about the theme, **SAVE THE EARTH'S NATURAL RESOURCES: "Can Our Children Enjoy The Same Resources and Beauty That We Have Had for Generations?"**

- **REDUCE waste by using less**
- **REUSE containers and other reusable products**
- **RECYCLE old products to make new one**

In other words, try to think about the following ...

- The Earth has a lot of magnificent spectacles that have to be preserved for new generations.
- Technology could pollute nature and in turn impact the quality of life; we should realize the power of that before it is too late.
- How can we preserve Earth's natural resources as a society?
- What do we have to do as an individual about saving Earth's natural resources?
- What are the short and long term consequences of wasting or polluting natural resources?
- What can be done at the international level to save Earth's natural resources?
- How can I help increase awareness about saving Earth's natural resources?
- How should I react to someone who is careless about saving Earth's natural resources?
- How can we mobilize people around us to join forces and stand against using Earth's natural resources improperly?
- What role could parents and school officials play in prevention of wasting Natural Resources?

- What more could the state of New Jersey and law makers do to inform people about saving Earth's natural resources?

The theme of “**SAVE THE EARTH'S NATURAL RESOURCES**” could mean much more than it sounds. When composing your work, feel free to be creative. Just remember you want to present your ideas in a way that will inspire the reader to think and become aware of the importance of the theme and why it is important to consider it in today's global world.

Who can participate & 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. The participants have to send their work by May 3rd, 2014 before 5pm.
2. The names of winners will be announced on May 22nd, 2014 at www.peaceislands.org and www.artandessay.org
3. The awards ceremony time and venue will also be announced on our web page, www.peaceislands.org

Prizes for each category

Grades 9 through 12:

1. First Place - \$600
2. Second Place - \$500
3. Third Place - \$400
4. Five mentions: \$100 each.

Grades 6 through 8:

1. First Place - \$500
2. Second Place - \$400
3. Third Place - \$300
4. Five mentions: \$100 each.

The teachers of the first three place winners in each category will receive an iPad Mini and winning schools will receive a PII Art & Essay Contest trophy.

Award Ceremony Venue

Venue and time will be announced later.

Contest Categories

1. Essay Contest

a. The participants have to send their essays by submitting online at www.artandessay.org by ***May 3rd, 2014 before 5pm.***

b. Essays must be original, unpublished, and written by one student.

c. Each student may submit only one (1) essay.

d. We ask the schoolteachers to mentor sponsor students and guide them. We also ask them to mail the essays on students' behalf, after submitting online. 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

True Story

h. The top three places and five mentions in each category will have their names published on the PII website on **May 22nd, 2014** and will receive their prizes at the award ceremony.

Each submission will be judged on the basis of following criteria: Grammar, uniqueness of the story, understanding of the topic and its implementation in the essay, the style of writing and the flow, and how the essay addresses the theme and approaches to solving the problems of the world and community related to theme.

i. Each submission must include:

- Name

- Grade

- School

- Sponsoring Teacher's Name

- Sponsoring Teacher's E-mail

j. By submitting their work, it is understood that participants consent to their work being used and copied by Peace Islands Institute for promotional and/or informational purposes.

k. Please note that submission by the student is not acceptable. We ask the sponsoring teacher to mail all essays that he/she helped with in one envelope, after submitting them online.

2. Visual Art Contest

- a. The participants have to mail their arts by May 3rd, 2014 before 5pm.
- b. The names of prize-winners will be announced on the PII website (www.peaceislands.org) on May 22nd, 2013.
- c. Works of art that are ranked top 15 will be displayed during the award ceremony.
- d. Participants may submit entries utilizing any medium in a 2-D format. Drawing, watercolour, oil paint, acrylic paint, collages, mixed media accepted. (No sculpture or photograph).
- e. Submissions may be one of the following sizes: 16"x16", 16"x12" or 17"x11"
- 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 on the back of it your:
 - Name
 - Grade
 - School
 - Sponsoring Teacher's Name
 - Sponsoring Teacher's E-mail and Phone number
- h. By submitting their work, it is understood that the participants consent to their artwork being used and copied by Peace Islands Institute for promotional and/or informational purposes.
- i. No artwork will be returned to students.

Announcements:

1. All Future announcements may be found at www.PeaceIslands.org and www.artandessay.org
2. All rights of submissions belong to PII.
3. Each winner is responsible for his/her own transportation to the ceremony.
4. Checks (awards) will be made payable to parents or legal guardians.
5. Follow PII Art and Essay on tweeter @artandessay.

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 1 student. Is this a problem? *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.*