

## **Descriptive Title: Centered and at the Top of the First Page**

Your essay should have three parts: an Introduction that introduces a thesis, the Body that develops your position, and the Conclusion, which might offer recommendations. It must **not** include any identifying information (your name, city, or school) anywhere in the essay. The essay should be typed, double-spaced, with left and right margins set at 1 ¼ inches on 8 ½ x 11 paper. The word limit should not exceed 1,500 – not including title, citations, or bibliography. Essays that use a variety of sources, such as academic journals, news magazines, newspapers, books, government documents, and research organizations’ publications will likely fare better in the contest judges’ eyes. Furthermore, all of your sources should be properly credited using the preferred citation format of MLA.

The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is proud to begin the twenty-fifth annual National Peace Essay Contest. The competition is open to all high school students (grades 9 – 12) in the United States and all U.S. citizens attending high school overseas. The Academy for International Conflict Management and Peacebuilding – the education and training arm of USIP – selects a current topic concerning international conflict management and peacebuilding for high school students to research. Based on the belief that questions about peace, justice, freedom, and security are vital to civic education, the National Peace Essay Contest aims to expand educational opportunities for young Americans in the fields of international affairs and conflict resolution.

Each contest year typically has over one-thousand submissions. High school students from Puerto Rico to Alaska, Maine to the Philippines, write their essays on the same subject yet convey a myriad of opinions and provide diverse case studies to bolster their argument. The

contest ultimately gives all state-winners a \$1,000 scholarship prize while the top three national winners receive a \$10,000, \$5,000, and \$2,500 scholarship award respectively. With so many winners, USIP has seen a number of outstanding essays. To read previous students' winning essays, please visit <http://www.usip.org/education-training/domestic/national-peace-essay-contest-high-school-students/winning-essays>. The 2011-2012 essay contest asks: How can new media best be leveraged to help build peace and prevent conflict?<sup>i</sup> For those students, teachers, or even practitioners who would like to learn more about the subject, please refer to [USIP's Study Guide](#).

---

<sup>i</sup> Washington D.C. United States Institute of Peace. *National Peace Essay Contest 2011-2012: The Impact of New Media on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management factsheet*. Washington D.C., 2011. Print.

## **Bibliography**

### *Print Sources*

Washington D.C. United States Institute of Peace. *National Peace Essay Contest 2011-2012: The Impact of New Media on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management factsheet*. Washington D.C., 2011. Print.

### *Internet Sources*

National Peace Essay Contest for High School Students. "FAQs." *United States Institute of Peace*. United States Institute of Peace, 2011. Web. 20 October 2011 <<http://www.usip.org/education-training/domestic/national-peace-essay-contest-high-school-students/faqs#eligible>>.