

## **FRED B. BENJAMIN PEACE WRITING CONTEST**

### **For Maryland Middle School Students**

**Description:** This is an annual, statewide writing contest for middle school students in Maryland focusing on the themes of peace and social justice. The contest, now in its 23rd year, is sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, Benjamin Peace Foundation, and the Peace and Justice Center of Annapolis Friends Meeting.

**Eligibility:** All 7th and 8th grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland or **home-schooled students at the same grade levels** are eligible to enter.

**Requirements:** Students must write no more than 1,200 words on the following topic:

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees our most fundamental liberties, including prohibiting the government from restricting freedom of speech or the press, the free exercise of religion, the right to assemble peacefully, and the right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. However, these freedoms have been threatened throughout American history. Which one of these do you believe faces the greatest challenges at this time? Support your views with examples from current events. What actions do you suggest to protect the freedom you selected?

The entry should be double-spaced and one-sided and accompanied by a separate cover sheet which includes all of these:

- Student's name, address and phone number (or e-mail address)
- School's name, address and phone number
- The name of the teacher sponsor, if applicable

Personal identifying information must not appear anywhere on the entry. Cover sheets should be attached to the entries by paperclip. No staples anywhere, please.

**Deadline:** Send entries and cover sheets to Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2019.

**Awards:** Winners will be selected by a panel of three distinguished judges. Winners will receive prizes of:

First place:	\$350
Second place:	\$250
Third place:	\$150
Fourth place:	\$100

Winners will be recognized at an awards ceremony. Attendance is not required to receive an award.