

2016 International Essay Contest for Young People

[Children's Category – Honorable Mention]

Education As a Bridge to A Peaceful World (Original)

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The world we live in now is the opposite of what I have imagined. Why? Well, first, there are terrorists around the world because of politics and ideology differences. Recent news showed that multiple attacks happened in Paris, Brussels, and even in my homeland, Indonesia. As a result, hundreds of people were injured or killed. Second, there had been shootings in schools due to bullying and prejudice. Peace had been taken from our world. Children go to school in fear. In addition, wherever we go, we have to be extra cautious. In public places, like airports, malls, or even theme parks, we are being screened repeatedly in fear of terrorist attacks. We lost our peace. Instead, it is replaced by fear and suspicions. In my opinion, a bright future should be a united and a peaceful world. We can start making that possible through education, which I call peace education. According to the Wikipedia, peace education is the process of acquiring the values, knowledge, and developing the attitude skills, and behaviors to live in harmony with oneself, with others, and with the natural environments. This kind of education should start from children. We, children, will be the major players who will play important roles in our society in the future. There are two basic values for the foundation of peace education. One is self-control, and the other is being tolerant or accepting differences.

What is self-control? It is how to control one's emotion or behavior when facing problems or conflicts. In my school, we have debate lesson as a way to learn self-control. Through debate lesson, we are taught how to express our opinions and to accept different views from our counterparts. We are always encouraged to work in groups and to have discussion with our classmates to solve problems. When we face conflicts or bullying, we are always reminded to have self control. We are encouraged to share our problems with teachers or friends, so they could help and violence could be avoided. Using fists to solve problem is a serious violation in my school. If children are always trained to have self control, I hope when we grow up and face frictions, we will choose to solve our problems through discussions instead of through violence.

Our world is very diverse. There are differences in cultures, religions, faiths, skin colors, values, and many of them. People have their own point of views. Through computers, we are now connected to people around the world easily. We play games or chat with children from other countries with different cultures, skin colors, or values. We are exposed to these differences starting from early age. Children should be educated to be tolerant and to make friendships across the border of races or religions without any prejudices. Peace education will help us to understand that no race or culture is more superior than the other. Children will be taught to learn how to respect and to accept those

differences. Children would be more open-minded and learn how to appreciate differences, since all of us are human beings and together we are members of this society.

If we follow these ideas of peace education, what would the world be like in the future? Well, I hope we will have a much peaceful world like I imagine. When the children grow up, the world will be run by people who have good self control, who are tolerant and who respect differences. Many conflicts in the world today are because there are no compromises on conflicts and no self-control. There is no respect of others' differences. They are mocking each others on differences. Today's children are tomorrow's adults. If the future adults have been taught about peace education since they were little, they will hopefully handle conflicts in different ways. Finally, I hope the world will be united. People with different religions, skin colors, cultures, or values could live along side in harmony. Then, we could have our peaceful world.