October 2, 2019

Dear 8th Grade Team Leaders for English Language Arts and Social Studies:

The Rhode Island 8th Grade Gandhi Essay Contest 2019-2020 invites all students in your classes to participate in our 10th year anniversary contest, celebrating the 150th birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. Our purpose is to encourage youth statewide to learn more about how the principles of peace and nonviolence can actively make their schools and communities safer and kinder learning environments.

Over the past nine years more than 1,500 8th graders have submitted essays and received recognition from URI. Teachers participating in past contests report improved academics, stronger writing skills, and more positive student attitudes and behaviors.

The 750-word essay invites students to reflect and write about Gandhi’s message of nonviolence and relate it to their schools and personal lives. The essay aligns with the RI Common Core Standards to assist you in helping your students demonstrate proficiency.

While all students are invited to invite essays, we can only accept the three best essays in each teacher’s classes to be submitted through our online portal. Submission deadline January 30, 2020.

Guidelines, Rubric and Resources can be found on the Contest website: web.uri.edu/gandhiessay/

If you have questions, please contact our Center 401-874-2875 or email gandhiessay@etal.uri.edu.

In Peace,

Paul Bueno de Mesquita, PhD
Professor & Director