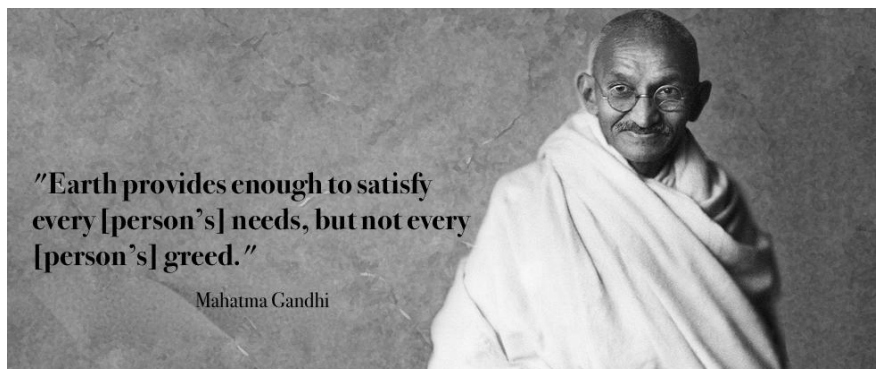


October 2, 2019

Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Leaders for English Language Arts and Social Studies:

The **Rhode Island 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Gandhi Essay Contest 2019-2020** invites all students in your classes to participate in our 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary contest, celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 write 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/](http://web.uri.edu/gandhiessay/)

If you have questions, please contact our Center 401-874-2875 or email [gandhiessay@etal.uri.edu](mailto:gandhiessay@etal.uri.edu).

In Peace,

Paul Bueno de Mesquita, PhD  
Professor & Director