

**SECOND ANNUAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR GOSHEN STUDENTS**  
**GRADES 7-8 and 9-12**  
**Submission Deadline: March 21 at 5 p.m.**

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) of Goshen is pleased to announce an essay contest to challenge our future leaders to rethink what it takes to build a community where every neighbor can live, work, and learn in their fullest potential.

The CRC serves Goshen by developing programs and policies that aim for a city without racism or discrimination of any kind, and building capacity for creative problem solving, resiliency, understanding and compassion among the diverse people in our community.

**CRC Principles:**

- Honor the dignity of each person and each person's rights
- Listen to the diverse voices of the community
- Cultivate constructive communication and engagement
- Value honesty, truthfulness, and integrity
- Promote a community that is safe for all
- Acknowledge and accept the challenge of change—that it may have both positive and negative consequences
- Promote the acceptance of differences
- Promote equality and freedom from discrimination

**Eligibility:**

All students grades 7-12 who are Goshen residents are eligible to win the competition.

**Instructions for Essay:**

- 1) Select one of the above Principles to serve as the focus of your essay.
- 2) Your essay should answer the following:
  - a. [All students] Tell a story. Describe how the principle was present or absent in the story. Could/did the principle make the situation better?
  - b. [Sr. High] Give an example of an area where our Goshen community is experiencing a problem or is not meeting its full potential. Explain how applying or more fully applying the principle could improve our community.
- 3) Length:
  - a. For grades 7-8, 300-600 words
  - b. For grades 9-12, 500-800 words

## **Process and Criteria of Evaluation:**

A committee of 5 representatives of the Goshen community will be reading the essays. The following criteria will guide their assessments and decisions:

- Does the essay adhere to the instructions given?
- Does the essay describe personal experiences related to the chosen principle?
- Does the essay demonstrate insight/understanding of the principle?
- Does the essay imagine how the principle can be applied to better serve Goshen's needs?
- Does the essay demonstrate imagination, insight, clarity, cohesion, and relevance?

## **Awards:**

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the two different grade groups.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: \$150

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: \$100

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: \$50

## **To register:**

All files are to be uploaded by 5 p.m. on March 21, 2023 through the Google Form found at [Goshenindiana.org/CrcEssays](https://www.goshenindiana.org/CrcEssays). Only complete submissions will be considered. Complete submissions include:

- 1) Essay saved in PDF file type
- 2) Completed Essay Registration Form submitted as a photo or PDF
- 3) W-9 submitted as a photo or PDF

If you have any problems email [CommunityRelations@goshencity.com](mailto:CommunityRelations@goshencity.com)

**Reception will be held on April 18 at Schrock Pavilion in  
Shanklin Park from 6-7:30 p.m.  
Essayist Meet-and-Greet: 6-7 p.m.  
Awards Ceremony: 7 p.m.**

## Community Relations Committee Essay Submission Form

Please download and fill out this form. Submit the completed form with your essay.

Due Date: **March 21, 2023 by 5 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of one current teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

All contestants are invited and all finalists are expected to join us for the Essayist Meet-and-Greet that begins at 6 p.m. on April 18, the night of awards ceremony.

Finalists should make sure to wear business casual clothing includes:

- Slacks
- dress pants
- skirt
- polo
- button down shirt
- nice blouse
- or go really fancy with a dress or suit

By signing this form, you are giving the CRC permission to publicize your essay and identify you as the author.

Signature of Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_