



PLEASE POST – **DEADLINE AUGUST 25**

**Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP)
ANNOUNCES**

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM (YEP)
ESSAY (POETRY, RAP, SKIT) CONTEST**



The Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP) Meaningfulworld, and YEP was founded by Dr. Ani Kalayjian to advance the knowledge about the immediate and long-term human consequences of traumatic events and promote effective methods of prevention, relief and restoration to those traumatized and to those treating traumatized populations. Bullying has devastated millions of children around the world, and more specifically in NY Tri-state area.

ESSAY/POEM/RAP/SKIT SUBJECT

"Creating Inner Peace: Transforming Bullying"

AWARD

**\$40 Grade School Winner, \$50 for Junior High Winner
\$75 High School Winner, \$150 College Student Winner**

The early years of a child's life are crucial for healthy cognitive, social and emotional development. Incorporating a "bully free" message in the classroom by encouraging acceptance, kindness, empathy, and love is essential in that development. In schools where there are bullying programs, bullying is reduced by 50%.

Bullying has become an epidemic in our nation's schools and streets. Many children are robbed of the opportunity to learn because they are bullied and victimized daily. It is a problem in virtually all schools. Bullying causes a lasting trauma, and the scars can last not only a lifetime, but it transmits generationally.

One third of teens reported being bullied while at school. About 40% of middle school students say that they have been bullied. An estimated 13 million children aged 6 to 17 were victims of cyber bullying and 8 percent of those affected by cyber bullying try to commit suicide. According to the NEA, it is estimated that 160,000 children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students. A bully is 6 times more likely to be incarcerated by the age of 24.

Giving students a voice is the number one factor that influences a change in culture, climate and academic performance. Teaching them Emotional Intelligence (EI) is essential for their health. Writing exercises about bullying makes children part of the healing process, empowers them and creates sustainable changes in their lives.

Eligibility and Submission Criteria:

1. Students must be enrolled in the school system and must be residents of NY, NJ, PA, MA, or Connecticut.
2. Essays/poems, raps or skits must be original and unpublished.
3. Essays must include own experiences, feelings, and recommendations for healthy and peaceful solutions.
4. Essays must be in English, typewritten, double-spaced, and 500-750 words in length; no guidelines for poems, skits or rap.
5. No more than one entry per year, and per family.
6. All entries become the property of ATOP/YEP and will not be returned.
7. ATOP/YEP reserves the right to make no award(s) each year if, in the opinion of its three judges, the submissions do not meet their criteria.

Deadline:

All entries must be postmarked by **25 August**. The winners will receive personal notifications & awards will be given at the ATOP Annual UN International Day of Peace 21 Sept.

Please include cover letter indicating name, address, age, year of study, e-mail & personal contact, name of school/college attending, college major field of study, career objectives and e-mail to: info@Meaningfulworld.com; & Drkalayjian@meaningfulworld.com, website: www.Meaningfulworld.com, questions?