

PeaceQuest – Competition for Youth:

Essay Topics for Students: (Age Group from 15 to 25)

In alignment with the International Philosophy Olympiad's focus on critical thinking and ethical inquiry, the underlined topics will encourage students from diverse disciplines (e.g., humanities, sciences, arts) to explore peace philosophically, accessible yet profound:

1. The Ethics of Empathy in Peacebuilding:

- How can empathy, as an ethical principle, bridge cultural or political divides in the Indian States?
- Example: Discuss nonviolent communication as an empathetic tool for resolving school conflicts.
- Appeal: Psychology, philosophy, and education students explore interpersonal ethics.

2. Harmony Through Diversity: A Philosophical Perspective:

- Can cultural diversity in the Indian States be a foundation for peace rather than conflict?
- Example: Analyse shared festivals (e.g., Diwali, Eid) as unifying forces.
- Appeal: Sociology, history, and literature students examine cultural pluralism.

3. Sustainable Peace: Balancing Human and Environmental Needs:

- How does environmental justice contribute to lasting peace?
- Example: Reflect on transboundary river disputes (e.g., Indus) and cooperative solutions.
- Appeal: Environmental science, geography, and engineering students link ecology and peace.

4. The Role of Youth in Redefining Peace:

- What philosophical principles should guide youth-led peace movements?
- Example: Explore youth activism (e.g., peace clubs) through Kantian or Gandhian ethics.
- Appeal: Political science, education, and social work students focus on agency.

5. Art and Philosophy as Catalysts for Peace:

- How can art (e.g., music, visual arts) embody philosophical ideals of peace?
- Example: Discuss a SAARC folk song's role in fostering unity through aesthetic experience.
- Appeal: Fine arts, philosophy, and media students connect aesthetics and ethics.

PeaceQuest – Competition for Youth:

Research Topics for Scholars: (Age Group 25 and above)

Crafted to establish a rigorous foundation for the Journal of Peace Studies, these topics invite interdisciplinary research (e.g., philosophy, political science, sociology, environmental studies) on peace across Rotary's avenues (e.g., health, education, environment). They emphasize upon original contributions, suitable for peer review:

1. Philosophical Foundations of Nonviolent Communication in SAARC Conflicts:

- How can nonviolent communication (NVC) frameworks, rooted in ethical philosophy, resolve regional tensions (e.g., India-Pakistan)?
- Example: Analyse NVC's application in cross-border dialogue initiatives.
- Appeal: Philosophy, conflict studies, and psychology scholars.

2. Cultural Pluralism and Peace: A Comparative Study of Indian States:

- How do shared cultural practices (e.g., music, heritage etc) foster peace across India?
- Example: Compare India's and Sri Lanka's use of cultural diplomacy for peacebuilding.
- Appeal: Anthropology, history, and cultural studies scholars.

3. Environmental Peacebuilding: Transboundary Resource Management - International or between Indian States:

- What philosophical and policy frameworks enable cooperative environmental governance (e.g., Ganges-Brahmaputra)?
- Example: Study the Indus Water Treaty's impact on India-Pakistan peace.
- Appeal: Environmental policy, geography, and international relations scholars.

4. Youth Agency in Peace Education: Philosophical and Pedagogical Insights:

- How can peace education curricula, informed by philosophy, empower youth?
- Example: Evaluate Rotary's peace clubs in Bengaluru schools post-SAIPC 2025.
- Appeal: Education, philosophy, and youth studies scholars.

5. Art as a Medium for Peace: Aesthetic and Ethical Dimensions:

- How do artistic expressions (e.g., visual art, literature) contribute to peacebuilding?
- Example: Analyse art exhibition as a case study for aesthetic peace.
- Appeal: Art history, philosophy, and media studies scholars.

Peace Art Festival:

Subjects – Themes:

Attracting participants from varied backgrounds and ages, the themes are inclusive, evocative, and interdisciplinary, encouraging peace-focused storytelling:

1. Unity in Diversity (Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Literature):

- Artworks celebrating our cultural mosaic (e.g., shared festivals, traditions).
- Example: A painting of a multi-faith harmony festival uniting community.
- Appeal: Social sciences participants explore cultural narratives; literature enthusiasts pair artworks with poetry or prose.

2. Healing Through Empathy (Psychology, Photography, Design):

- Visuals depicting conflict resolution or emotional connection (e.g., forgiveness, dialogue).
- Example: A photo collage of intergenerational reconciliation in a village.
- Appeal: Psychology participants depict empathy; photographers capture human connections.

3. Sustainable Harmony (Architecture, Environmental Studies, Digital Art):

- Artworks linking peace to environmental stewardship (e.g., water conservation, green spaces).
- Example: A recycled-material sculpture of a river symbolizing unity.
- Appeal: Architects design eco-installations; digital artists create climate-focused animations.

4. Peace Ambassadors (Education, Illustration, Social Work):

- Artworks showcasing individuals or communities driving peace (e.g., peace clubs, dialogue initiatives).
- Example: An illustration of a teacher fostering peace in a classroom.
- Appeal: Educators depict community leadership; illustrators craft inspiring visuals.

5. Art as a Peace Language (Performing Arts, Mixed Media, Animation):

- Artworks inspired by music, dance, or storytelling as peace catalysts (e.g., a mural of a peace song).
- Example: A mixed-media piece blending textiles and paint to depict a folk tale.
- Appeal: Performing artists translate dance into visuals; animators create short peace-themed animations.

Peace Short Film Competition:

Subjects – Themes:

To attract diverse students, the themes are broad yet focused, allowing creative freedom while aligning with peacebuilding.

1. **Harmony in Diversity** (Social Sciences, Journalism, Arts):
 - Stories of cultural unity across (e.g., shared festivals, music).
 - Example: A film about a cross-religion friendship during a Diwali-Eid -E-Milad celebration.
 2. **Healing Through Dialogue** (Psychology, Communication, Film):
 - Nonviolent communication resolving conflicts (e.g., school bullying, family disputes).
 - Example: A teen uses empathetic listening to mend a community rift.
 3. **Sustainable Peace** (Engineering, Environmental Science, Media):
 - Environmental solutions fostering peace (e.g., river conservation, urban greening).
 - Example: Youth collaborate on a zero-waste project to unite villages.
 4. **Youth as Peace Ambassadors** (Education, Social Work, Design):
 - Young leaders driving peace initiatives (e.g., anti-hate campaigns, peace clubs).
 - Example: A student starts a peace mural project in a divided neighbourhood.
 5. **Art for Peace** (Fine Arts, Animation, Literature):
 - Music, dance, or visual art as peace catalysts (e.g., a dance uniting communities).
 - Example: An animated film about a song healing war-torn memories.
-