

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FINE ARTS AND ESSAY DISPLAY

New York State schools are invited to submit student artwork based on Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence and essays on celebrating his birthday throughout the year. The categories are writing, painting, drawing, sculpting and photography. All entries must be postmarked by December 5, 2008 and will be placed on display for viewing one week prior to the King Holiday January 19, 2009 in Albany, New York.

Please encourage your students to take part in this historic celebration of Dr. King's life and ideals.

For more information, see enclosed correspondence. If you have additional questions, please call (518) 486-9866.

Please Submit Entries To:

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Assistant Director
Office of M/WBE and Community Relations
NYS Office of General Services
Administration
Concourse, Room 116
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12242*

*Co-sponsored by:
NYS Education Department &
NYS Office of General Services*

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE

PRINCIPLE ONE: Kingian Nonviolence is Not for Cowards.

- * Nonviolence has a complete disrespect for violence. It will not adopt violent tactics to reach its goal and will avoid violence in resolving conflicts and problems.
- * Dr. King stressed the importance of resisting violence in any form. He preferred and recommended nonviolence because it represented a more humane, noble and honorable method in the path to justice.
- * Nonviolence is affirmative standing not only against what is wrong but for what is right and just.

PRINCIPLE TWO: The Beloved Community is a World of Peace with Justice.

- * The Beloved Community is a framework for developing a future in which one can deal effectively with unjust conditions.
- * The "Ends and Means" is dealt with by this principle. You cannot achieve just ends by unjust means; you cannot use violent means to achieve peaceful ends.

PRINCIPLE THREE: Attack Injustice, Not Persons Doing Unjust Deeds.

- * Humor, anger and indignation about conditions was the focus of Dr. King's energy and attention. Persons are not the problem; what must be changed are the conditions under which some people operate.
- * Focusing anger and indignation on personalities is not only violent, but often produces more violence or apathy about the real problems and conditions.

PRINCIPLE FOUR: Accept Suffering Without Retaliation for the Sake of the Cause to Achieve a Goal.

- * Suffering is not to be confused with further harm to one's self or "self-victimization." Acceptance of harsh and unmerited punishment for a just cause helps the individual and the community grow in spiritual and humanitarian dimensions.
- * Willingness to endure hardship for a clearly defined just cause can have an impact on those committing acts of violence as well as on the larger community.

PRINCIPLE FIVE: Avoid Internal Violence of the Spirit as Well as External Physical Violence.

- * Our attitudes and commitment to practicing nonviolence when faced with violence or issues are communicated through our actions, which in turn are determined by our attitudes.
- * Body language as well as verbal expression communicate our real feelings and thoughts about a particular situation. Internal conflicts and violent feelings color these expressions.

PRINCIPLE SIX: The Universe is on the Side of Justice.

- * Society is oriented to a just sense of order in the universe. Nonviolence is in tune with this concept, and the movement must strike this chord in society.
- * Every person is opposed to wrong and unjust behavior in a particular situation. Given our understanding of the problem, we must never lose hope that human beings, even our opponents, are able to respond.