

Safe Homes Inaugural “I Can Make Change” Essay Contest

Sponsored by Binnacle Books

This year’s theme is:

A WORLD WITHOUT ABUSE

Safe Homes is inviting young writers in grades 9-12 to share their personal vision and voice in promoting healthy relationships and putting an end to domestic violence. 1 in 4 women, 1 in 7 men, and 1 in 3 teens under the age of 18 are impacted by domestic violence, regardless of socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, or any other social identity. This includes emotional, verbal, digital, financial, sexual, and physical abuse. Be an agent of change and write a thoughtful and unique essay that raises awareness about the issue of domestic violence.

This year’s theme is **A World Without Abuse**. For this essay, we want students to think about what it would mean to them to live in a world free from domestic violence. How would it impact romantic relationships, friendships, and the way people engage with the world around them? Students have creative freedom to explore this topic in a way that is meaningful to them.

Safe Homes of Orange County will accept submissions for the 2018 “I Can Make Change” Essay Contest from October 1, 2018 until November 16, 2018. Contest winners will receive the following prizes:

- 1st Place: \$75 prize
- 2nd Place: \$40 gift card
- 3rd Place: \$20 gift card

The winning essay will be featured in the quarterly Safe Homes newsletter. A letter of recognition and appreciation will be sent to the winners’ schools. Winners will be notified on Monday, December 10.

Submissions will be judged on a combination of quality, organization, convention, originality, creativity, topic, and depth of understanding. To see the judging criteria, see the judging rubric attachment.

Youth educators are available to visit classrooms or groups to discuss the essay contest and/or give a presentation. They are also available to set up a table in a central school location and distribute information for the day.

Eligibility: Any public, private, parochial, or home-schooled student in grades 9-12.

Submission Deadline: November 16, 2018

Requirements:

- Word Count: 700-1,000 words
- Format:
 - Times New Roman
 - Size 12 font
 - Double spaced
 - 1” margins
 - Page number and last name in top right hand corner of every page
 - Cover sheet stapled on front
- The written work is original, has not been copied from an existing published work and was not created by someone other than the artist.
- Artwork is submitted in one of the five (5) ways listed below.

Essays can be submitted in the following ways:

- Mail to: Safe Homes of Orange County
P.O. Box 649
Newburgh, NY 12550
- Drop off at: the Safe Homes office on the 3rd floor of 280 Broadway,
Newburgh, NY between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- Arrange Pick Up: Pickup may be arranged at schools for 5 entries or more
(depending on availability).
- Fax to: 845-562-2216
- Email to: mmausteller@safehomesorangecounty.org

Creating Safety

Reclaiming Equality

Pursuing Justice

Safe Homes works to eliminate all forms of domestic violence through education, outreach, and provision of services to individuals and families affected by domestic abuse. Safe Homes is client-centered. We educate and empower people to make informed choices. We serve with compassion and dignity. Our belief is, “Every home should be a Safe Home.”

Please use the form below as the label for your submission and staple to the front of the essay.

2018 "I Can Make Change" Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Full Name: _____

Student Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Name of School: _____ Grade: _____

Title of the Essay: _____ Word Count: _____

Short Narrative about Essay:

I, (print student name) _____, hereby grant permission to Safe Homes of Orange County to reproduce and use this essay in their publications, whether it be print publishing, electronic, or any form of media, including advertising and related promotion throughout the world and in perpetuity. I further agree that my name and identity may be revealed in descriptive text or commentary in connection with the image, without compensation. All copies and reproductions shall be the property of Safe Homes. If I want my essay to be returned, I am responsible for contacting Safe Homes to arrange for pickup, within 30 days of the conclusion of the essay contest. Safe Homes cannot be held responsible for accidental damage to the essay.

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Parent or Guardian Name: _____