

# PAAR

PEORIA AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

## 2017 FAIR HOUSING ESSAY CONTEST “A Street of Many Cultures – Benefits of a Diverse Neighborhood”

### Purpose

A theme that will do two main things (1) spark conversation with the students (and their teachers or parents) about fair housing and (2) is easily understood by the students.

### Eligibility

The contest is open to all seniors attending High Schools within the Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® Districts.

### Topic

Essay must address the fair housing theme, “A Street of Many Cultures – Benefits of a Diverse Neighborhood”

### Format

Essays must include a cover sheet containing the following information:

1. Essay Theme
2. Student Name (First and Last)
3. School attending

The student’s name should appear only on the cover page and not on any of the essay pages. The title and page number must appear on each page of the essay.

Essays must be at least 3 pages and no more than 5 pages in length. The cover page and bibliography are not included in the page count. Essays must be typed using 12 point Times New Roman font and must be double-spaced. Side, top and bottom margins must be 1”.

### Original Work, Source Materials, Citations and Bibliographies

- Essays must be the original work of the student.
- Sources relied upon must be cited throughout the essay text. Citations may be in the form of in-text parenthetical citations or footnotes.
- Essays must include a bibliography listing the full citations for all sources cited in the essay.
- Participants must cite at least one non-internet source.
- Use of MLA style guidelines for citations and bibliographies is preferred.

### Judging

Essays will be judged on the following criteria: (1) content (responsiveness to the topic, factual accuracy and depth and quality of research and analysis), (2) overall organization, writing style and spelling/grammar/punctuation, and (3) adherence to the contest rules regarding format, originality, citations, and bibliographies.

No particular view or perspective will be imposed on the essays in the judging.

English teachers will be asked to narrow down the schools senior class essays down to the top 3. Teachers should return the top 3 essays to Ashley Rupert at [arupert@paarealtors.com](mailto:arupert@paarealtors.com) by March 10, 2017. PAAR fair housing committee, PAAR CARES Board of directors will judge the final essays and determine a winner.

## Notification of Winners

Will be provided to the schools contact person, no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Award

1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$1,000

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - \$500

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - \$250

## Deadline for Submission

Teachers should return the top 3 essays to Ashley Rupert at [arupert@paarealtors.com](mailto:arupert@paarealtors.com) by March 10, 2017.

## Submission Instructions

- Only one essay per student may be submitted.
- Essays must be submitted to the assigned teacher.
- By submitting an essay, you are attesting that the work is entirely your original research and writing. By submitting an essay, you also agree that your essay will become the property of the Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® and will not be returned. The Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® reserves the right to print and display the essays and photographs of the contest winners.

### What Is Fair Housing?

In 1968, forty-seven years ago this spring, the federal Fair Housing Act was passed. The Fair Housing Act guarantees everyone the right to rent or buy housing on a fair and equal basis. Housing discrimination denies people the right to choose the neighborhoods in which they want to live. This affects families with children, persons with disabilities, and people from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Housing discrimination also denies everyone the right to enjoy the diversity our community has to offer.

### Who Does the Law Protect?

The federal Fair Housing Act protects all of us from housing discrimination. The Fair Housing Act protects us against discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, sex, family status, or disability. Illinois state law offers additional protections against discrimination based on ancestry, sexual orientation and gender identity/ expression.

### Why Participate?

April is National Fair Housing Month. The Peoria Area Association of REALTORS® emphasizes the importance of realizing that everyone is protected by the Fair Housing Act. Before 1968, doors were closed to many people simply because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, family status and disability. The Fair Housing Act opens doors to housing for many people. This essay contest is intended to foster a better sense of understanding, acceptance, and appreciation of the diversity in our neighborhoods and throughout our community. Show the community your vision of a neighborhood where everyone can choose where they want and can afford to live. Living as neighbors, we learn to appreciate our similarities and our differences.

Any questions or requests for additional information may be submitted to Ashley Rupert [arupert@paarealtors.com](mailto:arupert@paarealtors.com).