



The Art of Peace: A Global Vision of Peace by the World's Young People

Everyone is in favor of world peace—but what exactly do we mean by the word “peace”? What does peace look like, feel like? The Art of Peace project enables students to think deeply, to respond artistically, and to join a worldwide, creative conversation about what peace is and what it can be.

Objectives:

1. To enable young people to reflect on what peace means or can mean and to express their personal visions of peace through creative writing, art, photography, or video.
2. To share these artistic expressions of peace with the world through The Art of Peace web page.
3. To let these creative projects inspire them to take further, concrete steps toward working for peace.

Activities:

1. Reflect

Start by leading students in reflecting on the following questions, either on their own or as a group:

- What does (or what would) a peaceful day in your own life look like?
- What does (or what would) peace look like within your school or community?
- What could peace within your country look like?
- What could peace between countries or cultures look like?

Have them talk about their responses—do common threads run through most of their answers? Are there elements that everyone thinks of when they think of peace? Are some responses completely unique?

2. Choose

Decide what art form your students will use to answer the question **“What does peace look like?”** They may choose from:

- Creative writing—prose or poetry
- Visual art—fine art, graphic art, computer art
- Photography
- Video

3. Create

Will this be a collaborative class project, or will students work individually? Supply them with the necessary materials and lead them in creating their artistic responses.



Be sure to have them complete their Artist Statements—or complete a group statement for the whole class.

4. Upload

The project makes use of Google Photos for submitting projects.

- A. Go to <https://photos.google.com>. If you don't have a Google account, create one there.
- B. Click UPLOAD and proceed to upload:
 1. Your students' digital work (photos, videos, or digital art)
 2. Digital photographs of traditional artwork or creative writing pieces
 3. A digital photograph of your students' artist statements or a collective artist statement for your whole group
- C. Create a new shared album (Click on CREATE and then click on SHARED ALBUM) and select the photos you've just uploaded to populate the album.
- D. Name the album and click SHARE.
- E. Type info@blueplanetwriters.org into the "To" line.
- F. You can type a brief message into the message field; then click the arrow, and the link to your album will be sent to Blue Planet.

Your submission will be reviewed and curated by our staff before being published on the site. We'll send you an email when it's online.

5. The Extra Step

You can take the Art of Peace project further by encouraging your students to take other concrete steps to move the cause of world peace forward.

A volunteer project...a class donation to a peace-centered organization...the possibilities are endless and will help instill in students the idea that they *can* make a difference in the creation of a peaceful planet.

If your class decides to take this extra step, take a photo or two and tell us about it in an email sent to info@blueplanetwriters.org. We'll share it with the world on our Extra Step web page!

