



**Community Relations Commission  
CITY OF GOSHEN**

202 South Fifth Street, Suite 1 • Goshen, IN 46528-3714  
Phone (574) 537-3839 • [communityrelations@goshencity.com](mailto:communityrelations@goshencity.com)  
[www.goshenindiana.org/crc](http://www.goshenindiana.org/crc)

**Third Annual Community Relations Essay Contest  
Grades 7-12**

**Submission deadline March 1, 2024, at 5 p.m.**

The Community Relations Commission (CRC) of Goshen is pleased to announce its third annual essay contest to challenge our future leaders to rethink what it takes to build a community where every neighbor can live, work, and learn to their fullest potential.

The CRC serves Goshen by developing programs and policies that aim for a city without racism or discrimination of any kind and building capacity for creative problem-solving, resiliency, understanding, and compassion among the diverse people in our community.

**Eligibility:**

All students in grades 7-12 who are Goshen residents are eligible to win the competition.

**Instructions for Essay:**

Your essay should answer the following prompt:

Imagine you are a member of a group working to make your community safe and welcoming for everyone. Write an essay that explores at least three of the following:

1. What does it mean for a community to be safe and welcoming for all? Describe the important things that make people feel safe in their community.
2. Share a story about a time when you or someone you know didn't feel safe in your neighborhood or community. Explain why they felt that way and what could be done to make things better.
3. Think of three ideas or actions that this group could do to make your community safer and more welcoming for everyone. Describe these ideas and why they are important.
4. Talk about any challenges the group might face when trying to create a safer community. How do you think these challenges can be overcome?
5. What do you think people in the community can do to help make it safe and welcoming for everyone? Share your thoughts on what individuals can do to support the group's efforts.

Remember to use clear and detailed examples to support your ideas in your essay. Essays should be written in English.

**Length:**

- For grades 7-8, 300-600 words
- For grades 9-12, 500-800 words



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**Process and Criteria of Evaluation:**

Community Relations Commissioners will read the essays and use the following criteria to guide their assessments and decisions:

- Does the essay adhere to the instructions given?
- Does the essay describe personal experiences related to the chosen principle?
- Does the essay demonstrate insight/understanding of the principle?
- Does the essay imagine how the principle can be applied to better serve Goshen's needs?
- Does the essay demonstrate imagination, insight, clarity, cohesion, and relevance?

**Awards:**

First, Second, and Third prizes will be awarded in each of the two different grade groups. 1st Prize: \$150, 2nd Prize: \$100, 3rd Prize: \$50

**Participants should plan to attend the March 25<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting**, where certificates and prizes will be awarded.

The first-place winner from each grade group will present their essays at **the Founder's Day Celebration on March 28<sup>th</sup>**.

**To register**

All files are to be uploaded by 5 p.m. on March 1, 2024, through the Google Form found at [Goshenindiana.org/crcsays](http://Goshenindiana.org/crcsays). Only complete submissions will be considered.

Complete submissions include:

1. Essay saved in PDF file type
2. Completed Essay Registration Form submitted as a photo or PDF
3. W-9 submitted as a photo or PDF (The form can be found on the website)

If you have any problems, email [CommunityRelations@goshencity.com](mailto:CommunityRelations@goshencity.com).



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**Community Relations Committee Essay Submission Form**

Please fill out this form and submit it with your completed essay.

**Due Date: March 1, 2024, by 5 p.m.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of one current teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, you are giving the CRC permission to publicize your essay and identify you as the author.

Signature of Author: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_