

Piecing Together



a Better World

Sponsored by the Global Brain Empowerment Network (GBEN)

INTERNATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST

**Advocacy without Attack:
Can Positive Change Be Accomplished Non-Adversarially?**

CONTEST RATIONALE and GUIDELINES

It would be wonderful indeed if a group of persons should arrive on earth who were for something and against nothing. This would be the *summum bonum* of human organization, wouldn't it? –Ernest Holmes

Dualistic (either/or) logic assumes that being for something automatically places us in win/lose contention with its opposite. This polarizing logic sustains the belief that attacking what we dislike is essential to accomplishing a positive alternative. In contrast to this dualism, holistic (both/and) logic views polarities as mutual aspects of a co-operative all-win continuum, à la the non-combative dynamics of magnetic poles and electrical circuits.

So long as dualistic logic prevails, we tend to invest our attention and energy in reactive and negative opposition to what we dislike rather than in proactive and positive accomplishment of what we favor. Hence the questions to be addressed by our essay contestants: **Is non-adversarial advocacy possible, or are we necessarily bound to attack what is contrary? Can ideals such as greater well-being, peace, and environmental integrity be accomplished non-combatively?** If your response to these questions is affirmative, your essay will describe how one can be non-adversarially effective in facilitating positive change. If your response is negative, it will demonstrate why combative behaviors are essential to effective accomplishment of positive change.

In composing your essay, you are encouraged to consult the resources listed on the back of this page. →

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Choose an original title for your essay, which may be written as a personal reflection, a philosophical inquiry, a journalistic report, or a documented research paper, and subtitled accordingly ("A Personal Reflection", etc.). Essays are to be no longer than 2,500 words, and their submission **in triplicate** is to be postmarked no later than midnight, November 15, 2005.

The authors of the ten essays judged to be most helpful and useful in addressing the questions posed will be notified on or about February 1, 2006, and will have their essays published a few months later in support of GBEN's 2006 conference on "Winning Peace Instead of Winning Wars."

CONTEST ENTRANCE FEE:

Contest entrance is free for persons who enroll as GBEN Associates for a lifetime fee of \$36, who also receive free admission to GBEN's September 24, 2005 conference, Piecing Together a Better World, as part of their preparation for composing their essay. Associates who are unable to attend the conference will receive a free DVD of its plenary proceedings. The contest entrance fee for non-Associates, payable to GBEN, is \$27 (only \$18 for students of any age and all persons under 18 or over 65). See enrollment/entry form on reverse side.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

Further contest-related perspectives and information are online at www.gbenetwork.com/contest.htm, including a more extensive list of recommended contest resources than the one provided over. ►►►

ESSAY SPONSORSHIP:

The Global Brain Empowerment Network (GBEN) is an association of individuals and organizations dedicated to the advocacy of collaborative, non-adversarial practices, projects, and programs for personal and planetary well-being, peace, and environmental integrity.

CONTEST SCHOLARSHIPS:

Prospective contestants who cannot afford the entry fee may apply for scholarships, which will be available to the extent that others offer to provide them. We therefore welcome the inquiries of both those who would offer scholarships and those who would receive.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Essay contestants are encouraged to consult at least some of the following resources that address the possibility of non-adversarial approaches to positive change. The website listing of these resources provides links to descriptions and/or reviews of each, and cites additional materials that relate to the contest theme of "Advocacy without Attack".

NON-ADVERSARIAL PERSPECTIVES

Mohandas Gandhi, *The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work, and Ideas*

Martin Luther King, *A Testament of Hope : The Essential Writings and Speeches of Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Robert Perry, *Path of Light: Stepping into Peace with the Course in Miracles*

Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life and Speaking Peace: Connecting with Others Through Non-Violent Communication*

COLLABORATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Sharif Abdullah, *Creating a World That Works for All* and *The Power of One: Authentic Leadership in Turbulent Times*

David L. Cooperrider and Donna Whitney, *Collaborating for Change: Appreciative Inquiry*

Barry Carter, *Infinite Wealth: A New World of Collaboration and Abundance in the Knowledge Era*

Paul Hawken and Amory & L. Hunter Lovins, *Natural Capitalism*

Hazel Henderson, *Building a Win-Win World: Life Beyond Global Economic Warfare*

SELF-EMPOWERMENT PERSPECTIVES

Stephen Cherniske, *The Metabolic Plan*

Barbara Marx Hubbard, *Conscious Evolution: Awakening the Power of Our Social Potential and Emergence: The Shift from Ego to Essence*

Colin Tipping, *Radical Forgiveness: Making Room for the Miracle* and *A Radical Incarnation*

CONTEST ENTRY

____Please enroll me as an Associate in the Global Brain Empowerment Network and send me a free admission pass to the September 24, 2005 conference. My check for \$36 payable to "GBEN" is enclosed, for which I will receive free conference admission in addition to contest entry, as well as occasional e-mail updates on the essay contest and other GBEN initiatives.

____Please enter me in the essay contest only. My check for \$27 payable to "GBEN" is enclosed (or \$18 for students of any age and all persons under 18 or over 65).

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone number(s) _____

E-mail address: _____

Please send this form to GBEN, 8855 SW Holly Lane, Suite #111, Wilsonville, OR 97070