

# 2008 LAW DAY ESSAY CONTEST

---

## **THIRD PLACE**

---

The Rule of Law:  
Foundation for Communities  
of Opportunity and Equity

Shelton Campbell  
Hendersonville Christian Academy  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hendersonville

## Justice and Equality

Since the days of creation, man has strived to gain power and authority over the other man. In return, this offers a sense of royalty and higher respect due to his ranking by means of his level of success. Though this pride may appear grateful due to his or her accomplishments, does this then degrade the importance of the lesser man and his rights to a secure and equal life? The question whether if people of every kind should have the same rights and privileges as those of a higher class, is still raging in our society, and many are striving to reach justice on these issues. Man should receive the same justice and equality as the other man no matter his ethnicity, education level, or even his place of residence because all men are created equal, and all men should be treated with the same respect and care.

Race has unfortunately been an issue that has plagued the minds of many individuals and rioting socialist groups, and it has caused them to have a terrible outlook on the respect for another person's being and their personality because of the color of their skin. America, known for its racial conflicts in the mid twentieth century, is still battling the fight for racial equality and freedom. It is this division that has not only hurt the morality and character of this nation as a whole, but it has planted a bad taste in the hearts of many people to neglect lawful justice to those of a different race. Employment opportunities are greatly impacted by the fact of negative racial communications and ethnic stereotype. Many individuals are turned down job positions all because of hatred and lack of acceptance due to a different ethnicity. People are unfortunately treated much differently because of who they are, and this has resulted in much diversity and negative perspectives. Though the fight against racism may not appear as strong and prevalent as

it was during the African-American Civil Rights Movement of 1955-1968, racial discrimination still continues to linger to this present day, and it remains a factor in integrated relationships within this country.

Education and social development are other key factors that are considered in the justice and equality of American citizens. An individual's level of education plays a key part in how they are treated and respected. Though, in a way, this may appear detrimental, it is how many people view others and how they are to be treated. People with a higher education or level of success are more likely to be cared for far better than one who has lacked to reach these greater accomplishments. Many people view others as very smart and successful people if they possess higher professional titles such as a doctor, lawyer, CEO, or another elite job profession. In return our society places these individuals on an imperial pedestal, and they make it a priority that these categories of people are treated with the highest respect and the most-reliable security. So, what does this mean for lower class people and the less-fortunate individuals who do not carry these successful traits? Are they then treated with a lesser respect and not given the proper security that is needed for their protection? Despite one's level of accomplishment and education, everyone should be given the same fair justice as every other individual. Yes, some individuals are credited with a stricter sense of security, but it should not negate the responsibility of offering other individuals with the same care and admiration.

Neighborhoods are thought of as separate entities based on moral and racial differences. How can it be that richer and more positive areas with safer backgrounds receive more attention and faster on-call reactions than neighborhoods of inner-city regions that are known for crime or frequent disturbances? It would appear logical that

inner city areas or neighborhoods with increased crime rates would be given extra attention, yet many are looked over for racial discriminations. Our country's Declaration of Independence clearly states that all men are created "equal." As a citizen of the United States, man should not be based upon his class or position of success to determine the amplitude of his benefits or rights. According to our countries written document, every man should be given the same and equal rights no matter who he may be or what position he may hold as a citizen of the United States of America.

Justice is an important concept that America must strive to maintain as a part of its character. Decisions, whether if one should deserve as much respect and acceptance as the other man, should never be based upon a person's ethnicity or degree of social intelligence and positioning. Though signs of racial unfairness continue to loiter within our present-day society, progression must continue towards a more unified community to limit such disagreements. This will then aid to provide a more peaceful and productive society in our world. God is not a respecter of persons, and neither should we possess an attitude of accepting or rejecting other kinds of people who contain separate traits different than of ourselves.