



FAIR HOUSING ESSAY CONTEST

ESSAY CHALLENGE:

Choose from one of the two topics listed below and write an essay at least 1 page no more than 3 pages.

Topics

1. Home

What does home mean to you? Where is home? What makes you feel like you are “at home”?

2. Community

What would it be like if everyone could afford their homes or apartments? What would that community look like? How would it feel to be part of a community where everyone had a home?

FORMAT:

Essays should have a cover sheet containing:

1. The topic you picked.
2. Your Name (First and Last)
3. Your Age
4. Your Address/ Phone Number

Do not put your name anywhere else on the essay. Please use 12-point font and double-spaced.

JUDGING:

All submissions should first be submitted to the referring teacher, if applicable, or emailed to troughsedge@pittstonrda.com

Questions regarding submission or eligibility can be directed to Therese Roughsedge, at:

570-654-4601 EXT. 5238

The Federal Fair Housing Act was signed into law April 11, 1968. The act states that it is illegal to discriminate in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, family status and disability. In addition to the Federal Fair Housing Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, as amended (PHRA) protects against unlawful discrimination of individuals or groups on the basis of race, color, sex, familiar status, religious creed, ancestry, age, national origin, handicap or disability, use of guide support animal because of blindness, deafness or physical handicap of the user or because the user is a handler or trainer of support or guide animals ((43 P. S. § 951—963).



FAIR HOUSING COLORING CONTEST

Children ages 5-11 may color and submit the attached coloring page.

On the back of the coloring page, please clearly write:

2. Your Name (First and Last)
3. Your Age
4. Your Address
5. Phone Number

- If you'd like to be notified by phone that you've won.

Please do not put your name or information anywhere else on the front of the coloring page.

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FAIR HOUSING INFO SHEET

For Adults:

The City of Pittston, as recipient of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through Pennsylvania's Department of Economic and Community Development (DCED), complies with the federal Fair Housing Act and is committed to promoting fair housing choice for all persons.

The Fair Housing Act, established in 1968, is a law that was created to put an end to discriminatory practices in any activities related to housing. Every person has the right to rent a home, purchase a home or get a mortgage on a home without being afraid of discrimination due to their membership in a certain class of people. It is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, ancestry or familial status in the sale, rental, and/or financing of dwellings. Additionally, Pennsylvania's Human Relations Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of age (over 40) and the use of a support animal.

Pennsylvania's Human Relations Commission has a toll-free Fair Housing Hotline: (855) 866-5718 for questions related to fair housing and for assistance with filing fair housing complaints.

For Children:

People live in a lot of different types of houses. Some people live in big houses. Some people live in small houses. Some people live on a second floor. Some people share a home with friends or family.

Homes, like people, can be very different. No matter how different the home, be it big or small, everyone has the right to be treated fairly when looking for a home.

Here in the City of Pittston (and all across Pennsylvania), we follow the Fair Housing Act, which says that whoever you are you cannot be discriminated against (told no) when looking for a house because of how you look, what you believe, if you have siblings, come from another town or country, or have a special need. Fair housing is about being fair to everyone. The coloring books will give you some ideas about what is and isn't fair when it comes to housing. Share your coloring books with your parents and remember that there is help listed on the back for your parents to call.