

Poetry Grades 9-12

2016 Human Rights Arts Competition – Tompkins County Office of Human Rights

First Place:

Blinded

Emily Miller (Trumansburg High School)

You say you're happy with the turnout
You say I have no reason to be upset or afraid
 You say everything will be fine,
 Simply because it's "all in God's hands"

You say these things as if you're entitled to,
 Blinded by ignorance and hate
 Disregarding the other side,
 All because you "can't relate"

If you would take a moment to listen,
 Maybe you'd understand
 Not all of us are as lucky,
 And we are going to take a stand

Second Place:

Haiku of Human Rights: Article 1

Maybeck McCann (Trumansburg High School)

Sisters and brothers
All colors shapes sizes
Owed equal rights now

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Third Place:

Deception of America
Mallorie Conroy (Trumansburg High School)

Gender, race, sexuality
We do not care about those things
 We are accepting

For our country is the best
Safer, stronger than others
Our country protects your rights

We are not greedy, or lazy
 We deserve our privilege
And we don't seek special treatment

Of course we will love and welcome you
As long as you are of the right gender
 And color

No, we are not discriminative.

Honorable Mention:

My Home
Gayle Burke (Trumansburg High School)

The saying goes that a person's home is their castle,
 But castles aren't so easily raided.
 Castles have defenses,
 And castles have pride,
Both of which we have been stripped of now.

It clearly states in Article 12 that my home is my home,
 And it isn't supposed to be invaded.
 You need a warrant, supposedly,
 To invade my privacy,
 And to invade my life.

These were written almost eighty year ago,
And yet we still can't accomplish treating each other,
 Like equals,
 Like living creatures,
 Like human beings.