Writing Topics
Based on the The Road to Peace book series by Paul K. Chappell

Prepared by Krista M. Hensley, Center Grove Early College

West Point graduate, Iraq War veteran, and former Army Captain, Paul K. Chappell is a contemporary voice that speaks to a diverse range of high-interest topics for students of all ages. As we are looking for ways to engage our students with nonfiction work that is culturally relevant, he may be a source that you want to explore for use in classroom discussion, reading, research, writing assignments, and projects.

Chappell has coined a new term in education and literacy, Peace Literacy, as he explains below:

“During an era when humanity has the technological capacity to destroy itself, peace literacy means survival literacy. As a child in school I spent many years learning to read and write, but I did not learn peace literacy skills. Peace literacy educates us on solving the root causes of our problems rather than merely dealing with symptoms, which is another reason why the survival and wellbeing of our country and planet depend on peace literacy.”

– Paul K. Chappell, Peace Leadership Director for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Chappell makes extensive use of Greek mythology, world history, philosophy, and psychology to support his claims. Below are some of the topics from his work that could be used in the classroom for writing or discussion:

- Aggression
- Bravery
- Civil Disobedience
- Civil Rights
- Conflicts
- Dehumanization
- Disrespect
- Empathy
- Heroism
- Holocaust
- Human Rights
- Injustice
- Justice
- Listening
- Military
- Nonviolence
- Peace
- Progress
- Racism
- Rage
- Respect
- Romanticizing the Past
- Shared Humanity
- Slavery
- Struggle
- Truth
- Violence
- Waging Peace
- War
- Women’s Rights

Key figures discussed in his work include Ancient Greek thinkers such as Socrates and Euripides, as well as historical world leaders such as Frederick Douglass, Gandhi, MLK, Jr., Gen. MacArthur, and contemporary peace leaders such as Wangari Maathai and Mulala Yousafzai.