



Rob Gifford  
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"You see, in the West," he [Wang YK] says, "people have a moral standard that is inside them. It is built into them. Chinese people do not have that moral standard within them. If there is nothing external stopping them, they just do whatever they want for themselves, regardless of right and wrong."  
-from *China Road: A Journey into the Future of a Rising Power* by Rob Gifford

Be part of **The City Thinks**, a regional program which considers the issue of China as a rising power. Read *China Road*, listen to an expert speaker, make Chinese cultural art or write an essay! For complete events listing and more details, please visit [SpringfieldLibrary.org](http://SpringfieldLibrary.org) or [SpringfieldPublicForum.org](http://SpringfieldPublicForum.org)

**Springfield Public Forum**

P.O. Box 5374

Springfield, MA 01101

413.732.2020

[SpringfieldPublicForum.org](http://SpringfieldPublicForum.org)

**American International College  
Honors Program**

1000 State Street

Springfield, MA 01109

800.242.3142

[AIC.edu](http://AIC.edu)

**Springfield City Library**

220 State Street

Springfield, MA 01103

413.263.6828

[SpringfieldLibrary.org](http://SpringfieldLibrary.org)

*The Springfield Public Forum,  
the Springfield City Library,  
and the American International College Honors Program  
present:*

## **The City Thinks 2008 Essay Contest: Considering China** **Its past, present and future as a rising power**

Consider China's rise on the international stage in a wide range of areas: the global economy, politics/foreign affairs, the environment and human rights among others. Referencing one or more of these topics and using specific examples, build an argument and answer the question:

“Does China represent a threat or an opportunity? Why?”

If you are a student between 12 and 21 years old, tell the city what you think by answering the question above. Your essay should not exceed 500 words and should include facts and a bibliography to support your conclusions. The four judging categories are: Grades 6-8, 9-10, 11-12 and college level. Essay Due Date: Friday, October 10, 2008 by 5:00 pm in both electronic and paper format.

Winners will have the opportunity to read their essays at The City Thinks Kick-Off event on Thursday, October 30 at the AIC Auditorium Art Gallery and will receive two tickets for the private dinner with NPR correspondent Rob Gifford on October 13. In addition, copies of the winning speeches will be available to all audience members at Gifford's October 13 lecture, and winners will receive recognition at the speech and in the press.

Complete guidelines and entry forms are available at your local library or visit [SpringfieldPublicForum.org](http://SpringfieldPublicForum.org) or [SpringfieldLibrary.org](http://SpringfieldLibrary.org) for more details.



Monks at Labrang monastery in Xiahe © Patrick Fraser