

2021 NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE
High School Writing and Arts Competition
https://holocaustremembranceservice.org/competition/high_school/

Attention All Northwest Louisiana High School Students!

To remember the lives that were lost during one of humanity's worst periods, our community remembers the Holocaust with an annual memorial service. Through our remembering and active cooperation, we strive to obliterate injustice. Because our future is only as strong as our youth, we are continuing our annual writing competition to encourage students to voice their understandings of the tragedy of the past and their hopes for the future.

2021 High School Competition Prompt:

This year's prompt allows you to view the Shoah/Holocaust through a broad perspective, reflecting upon its lessons in terms of their relevance for yesterday and today. But while the Holocaust was "uniquely unique," as Holocaust scholar Yehuda Bauer put it, there are important universal lessons to be acted upon. For this year's prompt, you will be selecting from 3 of the 7 Lessons given in a speech by Irwin Cotler in 2011. (https://www.aish.com/ho/i/7_Lessons_from_the_Holocaust.html)

Choose **ONE** of the following lessons that we can learn from the Holocaust:

Lesson 1: The Importance of Holocaust Remembrance - The Responsibility of Memory

The first lesson is the importance of Zachor, of the duty of remembrance itself. For as we remember the six million Jewish victims of the Shoah — defamed, demonized and dehumanized, as prologue or justification for genocide — we have to understand that the mass murder of six million Jews and millions of non-Jews is not a matter of abstract statistics. For unto each person there is a name — unto each person, there is an identity. Each person is a universe. As our sages tell us: "whoever saves a single life, it is as if he or she has saved an entire universe." Just as whoever has killed a single person, it is as if they have killed an entire universe. And so the abiding imperative — that we are each, wherever we are, the guarantors of each other's destiny.

Lesson 2: The Danger of State-Sanctioned Incitement to Hatred and Genocide - The Responsibility to Prevent

"Someone who hates one group will end up hating everyone —and, ultimately, hating himself or herself."
—Elie Wiesel

The enduring lesson of the Holocaust is that the genocide of European Jewry succeeded not only because of the industry of death and the technology of terror, but because of the state-sanctioned ideology of hate. This teaching of contempt, this demonizing of the other, this is where it all began. As the Canadian courts affirmed in upholding the constitutionality of anti-hate legislation, "the Holocaust did not begin in the gas chambers — it began with words." These, as the Courts put it, are the chilling facts of history. These are the catastrophic effects of racism.

As the UN marks the commemoration of the Holocaust, we are witnessing yet again, a state-sanctioned incitement to hate and genocide, whose epicenter is Ahmadinejad's Iran. Let there be no mistake about it. Iran has already committed the crime of incitement to genocide prohibited under the Genocide Convention. Yet not one state party to the Genocide Convention has undertaken its mandated legal obligation to hold Ahmadinejad's Iran to account.

Related Article: Does the Holocaust Still Matter?

(https://www.aish.com/jw/s/Does_the_Holocaust_Still_Matter.html)

Lesson 3: The Danger of Silence, The Consequences of Indifference - The Responsibility to Protect

The genocide of European Jewry succeeded not only because of the state-sanctioned culture of hate and industry of death, but because of crimes of indifference, because of conspiracies of silence. We have already witnessed an appalling indifference and inaction in our own day which took us down the road to the unspeakable — the genocide in Rwanda — unspeakable because this genocide was preventable. No one can say that we did not know. We knew, but we did not act, just as we knew and did not act to stop the genocide by attrition in Darfur. Indifference and inaction always mean coming down on the side of the victimizer, never on the side of the victim. Indifference in the face of evil is acquiescence with evil itself.

Guidelines For All Entries:

- All entries must be submitted by a teacher. (Homeschooled students must have a parent submit entry.)
- Entries must be submitted with a completed cover sheet, which can be found on the website.
 - Each entry type (Art, Music, Poetry, Prose, Film) has a corresponding cover sheet.
- Include a header on each page with only title of entry and page number.
- Entries must not include reference to student or school name.
- Each entry type has additional criteria which must be met. See below for your entry type.
- Entries that do not follow these criteria and the category specific criteria below will be disqualified.

Deadline

Entries must be submitted to either of the following no later than Noon on March 1st:

- Hard copy: North Louisiana Jewish Federation, 245-A Southfield Road, Shreveport, LA 71105
- Electronically: HolocaustLiteraryCompetition@gmail.com

Judging Criteria

The decision of the judges is final.

Judging will be based on:

1. Originality and creativity
2. Historical accuracy
3. Addresses the contest theme
4. Follows the specific criteria for each category

Contest judges review submissions with no knowledge of the student's identity, school, teacher, or residence. In order to provide anonymous papers for judging, the body of the paper should not contain any information identifying the writer. The entry must be the original work of the student. **Judges request that teachers review students' work and submit only entries worthy of being considered for judging.** By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to all the judging criteria.

Prizes

Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Holocaust Remembrance Committee. Some rewards may not be given, depending on the number of entries received and evaluation of merit by a panel of judges.

- 1st Place Student (in each entry type): \$400 Amazon Gift Card
- 2nd Place Student (in each entry type): \$200 Amazon Gift Card
- 3rd Place Student (in each entry type): \$100 Amazon Gift Card

Literary winners will be expected to attend the Holocaust Memorial Service.

Teacher Awards

- Teachers with students who submit qualifying entries in the writing competition will each receive a \$25 Amazon gift certificate.
- Teachers who attend the Holocaust Remembrance Service with at least three of their students will receive an additional \$25 Amazon gift certificate. (Teachers who attend the service with students need not have students submit entries to receive an award.)
- In addition to the winning students, contributing students, institutions, and award-winning teachers will be recognized during the Holocaust Remembrance Service.

School Incentives

- Schools whose students submit eligible entries will receive \$200.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept submissions that do not adhere to these guidelines and the guidelines for the specific category found on the following page, that are submitted late, or come from students outside the Northwest Louisiana area (Caddo, Bossier, Webster, and DeSoto Parishes). Submissions will be retained by the Northwest Louisiana Jewish Federation, who will have the right to reprint winning entries in publications including local media/newspapers or posted online: www.HolocaustRemembranceService.org.

Please see the official website for links to resources that can help with research for your essay.

SPECIFIC CATEGORY CRITERIA FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE:

Specific Criteria - Poetry

- Entries must be titled and typed.
- Entries must not include graphics, drawings, or other images.
- Entries may be no more than 450 words, double-spaced, and in 12-point Arial font.
- Submissions must represent the independent work of the student, but teachers may provide grammatical or spelling recommendations.
- Students must include a bibliography at the end. (This is not part of the word count).

Specific Criteria - Art

- Must be a two-dimensional image on medium no thicker than 3/4"
- Entries must be a minimum size of 8" x 10" and no larger than 18" x 24"
- Artwork must be matted or mounted.
- May include photography, computer-generated images
- May use charcoal, pencil, pastel, chalk, watercolors, acrylics, or oils.
 - o Fixative spray must be applied to charcoal, pencil, pastel, and chalk art.
- All images, regardless of medium, are considered property of the original artist.
- Renderings of another's work will be disqualified.
- Artwork does not require header
- Winners will be required to bring the original piece to the award ceremony.

Specific Criteria - Film

- Content viewing time may be no longer than three (3) minutes.
- Final file size must not exceed 600 MB.
- Must acknowledge sources – to protect copyright holders, proper citation of all sources is required.
 - o Permission for sources that are not public domain must be obtained in writing from copyright holder and submitted with entry.
- Submit film without credits for blind judging.
 - o A completed film with credits should be prepared in the event the film is selected for screening.
- To ensure compatibility with MAC and PC, please use either QuickTime or MPEG format.
- Final films may be submitted using WeTransfer.com, a free file transfer website

Students wishing to use music, photos, video, or other artwork in their films should be aware that these may be protected by U.S. copyright law and therefore require permission from the artists to use them. Purchasing or downloading materials from a website is generally intended for personal and home use only and does not grant the purchaser the right to reproduce, perform, or display copyrighted works publicly. For any copyrighted works appearing in the film, permission must be obtained from the copyright holders and submitted with the entry.

Submitting a Musical Composition:

- Audio file & notation/score (if applicable) as well as CD/USB Drive must be labeled with your Arts Category, Grade Division, Last Name and First Name
- Pack the CD/USB in a large envelope and use masking tape to secure your Student Entry Form to the outside of the envelope.
- Include a second copy of your Student Entry Form inside the envelope
- Entries will be judged on mastery of the medium, artistic merit, and addressing the prompt. Mastery of the medium may be a formal composition technique or a simple approach.

Specific Criteria - Prose

- Entries must be titled and typed.
- Acknowledgement of sources must be within the essay and location of sources at must be at the end of the paper
- Entries may be no more than 500 words, double-spaced, and in 12- point Arial font. Submissions must represent the independent work of the student, but teachers may provide grammatical or spelling recommendations.

Specific Criteria – Music Composition

- May be instrumental or lyrical
- All instruments, sounds, styles and combinations are accepted.
- Software may be used to produce an audio recording provided it does not include commercially pre-programmed imported MIDI or other source files.
 - o Entries containing algorithmic composition techniques are not accepted.
- Entries must be new and original songs inspired by the theme.
- Each entry must be the work of one student only.
- Audio must not exceed 3 minutes in length and 1GB (one gigabyte) in file size.
- Notation & Score Required.
 - o Notation software may be used.
 - o Appropriate instrumentation and voicing are required.
 - o Each page must be numbered.
 - o Notation/Score must be printed on 8.5x11 (single-sided) or saved/scanned as a single PDF.
- Audio file may be MP3, WMA, WAV, ACC (M4A) or FLAC.
- Videos are not accepted.