

**Holocaust Essay Contest
Cover Sheet**

County of Residence: _____

School Name and Address: _____

School Category (check one): Middle/Junior High School High School

Name of School System: _____

Name of School: _____

Teacher's Name under whose auspices the essay is submitted:

Student's Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____

Student's Address:

Phone Number Where Student May Be Contacted (if cell, whose cell?): _____

Parent/Guardian name(s): _____

Phone Number of Parent/Guardian: _____

Essay focus (if applicable): _____

For Essay Officials Only

Essay # _____

Scoring:

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Judges' scores (0-100)

Average of the judges' scores

2020 Holocaust Essay Competition Jewish Federation of Central Alabama

Timeline for the Holocaust Essay Contest

- Distribute info to schools: 1/24/2020
- Due Date for essays: 3/10/2020
- Distribute essays to judges: 3/11-3/13/2020
- Judging: 3/16-4/3/2020
- Notification of winners (and acknowledgement of others): 4/7/2020
- Presentation of prizes to teachers and students: 4/21/2020

Prizes:

- High School: 1st Place - \$500, 2nd Place - \$300, 3rd Place \$100
- Jr. High: 1st Place - \$500, 2nd Place - \$300, 3rd Place \$100
- Teachers: \$50 to each teacher who has a winning essay submitted under his/her auspices

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

Background

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 mounting an annual writing competition to encourage students to voice their understandings of the tragedy of the past and their hopes for the future

Guidelines

- Submissions must represent the independent work of the student, although teachers may provide grammatical or spelling recommendations
- Essays must be no greater than 1000 words in length (Cover page is not considered part of the word count)
- Essays must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman font
- Include a header on each page with only title of entry and page number. The coversheet (form) should be page 1.
- 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. **The decision of the judges is final.**

Contest Eligibility

Eligible contestants must be either a middle/junior high school or high school in Montgomery County, Alabama. Home schooled students, public school students, and private school students are all eligible.

Topic – Key Elements

Each essay must include the following:

- Factors/Events leading up to the Nazi regime and its abilities to gain control.
- Description of the victimization
- Lessons Learned

Judging

Essays will be judged on:

- Historical accuracy
- How well the essay addresses the three key elements requested in the essay
- Acknowledgement of sources within the essay and location of sources at the end of the paper (The end notes do not count in the 1,000 word limit)

Essay Guidelines:

- Must be typed and be no greater than 1,000 words in length.
- Must be submitted by email to mail.jfca@mail.com no later than noon March 20, 2020
- No identifying information about the author may be included except as required on the coversheet.

Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.

Holocaust Essay Competition – A Writing Guide

This page will give you some helpful tips as you set out to write your essay.

Answer the question that is asked: Each year, a different question will be asked as the prompt. Please be sure that your essay includes a thesis (position) statement that reflects your opinion, and then use relevant facts to support your claims. Do not allow yourself to veer off topic!

Do NOT feel obligated to write a five-paragraph essay: Not all essays need five paragraphs. Some need two body paragraphs, some need six—let each body paragraph reflect one key point, and then write your essay with that in mind. If you have four individual points to make, your essay will be six paragraphs long. If you have two, your essay will be four paragraphs long. Let your argument determine the structure of your essay.

Be specific whenever you can: It is a hallmark of good writing that you speak in specifics, rather than in generalities, particularly when talking about other people. Rather than writing “Germany invaded Poland,” it is better to say “the Nazi government of Germany ordered the invasion of Poland.”

Good writing checklist: A good essay will have: 1) a clear thesis statement *that answers the question that was asked*; 2) an appropriately-structured essay, with the number of paragraphs determined by the number of individual points you wish to make; 3) specific, scholarly, grammatically correct language; and 4) a larger point—perhaps one that ties the lessons of the Holocaust to today.

Citations: Essays that do not cite their sources in properly-formatted footnotes and include a works cited page will be disqualified. Note that the footnotes do not count towards the word limit.