

2021 Yom Hashoah Essay Contest

The Holocaust: Renewing the Promise of Never Again



Who's Eligible:

All Howard County middle school and high school students

Purpose of the Essay Contest:

The Howard County Holocaust Remembrance Committee seeks to remember the Holocaust by learning from the events that took place in Europe from 1933 to 1945. The essay provides students an opportunity for reflection, and to consider how the atrocities of the Holocaust continue to impact us today. The hope is that this will highlight the importance of standing up against hateful actions to prevent terrible events from happening again.

There will be a first and second place prize awarded at the middle school level, and similarly at the high school level. First Prize winners will each receive \$100 and Second Prize winners will each receive \$50.

Essay Background and Topic:

Option A:

In hindsight, when studying the events leading to the Holocaust, there were warning signs of the atrocities to come. What were some of these warning signs? In this essay you could examine the role of media, targeting a group or groups of people, the economy, or other factors that were of concern during that time period. Are you noticing any similar concerns today?

Option B:

What things do you stand up for and how?

- Have you seen something where you felt you needed to speak up? Explain why you either did or did not. Recall an event either in your personal life or in the larger world that spurred you to action or that you now wish had spurred you to action.
- What social media issues are you seeing and reacting to? What similarities do you see between the role of the media then and now? What do you see in social media that concerns you and what can you do about it?

Suggested Resources:

The Early Warning Project
<https://earlywarningproject.ushmm.org/>

State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda
<https://www.ushmm.org/propaganda/>

The Basic Things to Know:

- Essay should be 300-500 words and no more than 2 typed pages.
- Essay should be submitted by email no later than March 1, 2021.
- Winners will be notified by March 15, 2021.
- Essay should be submitted by email to YomHaShoahEssayContest@gmail.com. Include your essay as an attachment, preferably in PDF format. Please type either Middle School or High School in the subject line of the email. Include a title page with your name, school name, grade, contact phone number and/or email address.

Judging:

Essays will be judged by Howard County Holocaust Remembrance Committee members and Howard County teachers, using a 6-point rubric that will incorporate common core standards.

