

“Uniting Against Hate” Essay Contest



Yom HaShoah Commemoration

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. This essay provides students the opportunity for reflection, both upon the Holocaust, as well as the recent increase in hate-based incidents and violence in our own communities. The hope is that this will highlight the importance of standing up against hateful actions to prevent terrible events from happening again in the future.

There will be a first and second place prize for one middle school and one high school student. The two First Prize winners will each receive \$100 and the two Second Prize winners will each receive \$50.

Essay Topic:

Writing can be submitted in the form of an essay or a poem. Students should focus on one of the following “Uniting Against Hate” topics:

1. Moving from bystander to upstander: share your personal experiences with standing up against hate or bullying. What influenced you to take action? In thinking about these experiences, do you see any similarities between these acts and things that occurred before or during the Holocaust?
2. Discuss what you have learned from studying the Holocaust or reading Holocaust related books, like *Night* or *The Diary of a Young Girl* and how it may inspire you to stand up against hate.
3. Talk about your reactions to recent hate crimes in the news and how it has personally affected you.

The Basic Things to Know:

- Essay should be 300-500 words and no more than 2 typed pages.
- Essay is due no later than April 1, 2019.
- Winners will be notified by April 22, 2019.
- Writing samples should be submitted by email to YomHaShoahEssayContest@gmail.com. Please type either Middle School or High School in the subject line. Also include a title page with your name, school name, grade, contact phone number, and 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.



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