

Akron-Summit Holocaust Arts and Writing Contest
2026 Theme: *Holocaust & Genocide: The Importance of Hope & Resistance*
Entry Deadline January 23rd, 2026

VISUAL ART ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This is what you *have* to do to enter the contest and win! You should check off this list as you work.

1. ☐ Choose a type of **media (art form)**, such as drawing, painting, sculpture, collage, wood carving, photography, etc.
2. ☐ All entries are **individual works**.
3. ☐ Choose your sources. Do you want to use a history book, a biography, an interview, a museum, an article? [Recommended resources](https://akronsummitholocausteducation.org) can be found at <https://akronsummitholocausteducation.org> All the sources listed on our website are reliable sources.
4. ☐ Use your research to develop your art around the theme “**Holocaust & Genocide: The Importance of Hope & Resistance.**”
5. ☐ Create a plan for your art and make sure it meets these requirements:
 - a. 2-dimensional (2D) work such as a drawing or painting may not exceed 24x24 inches. If you are submitting an entry that consists of multiple pieces, their combined dimensions must not exceed 24x24 inches.
 - b. 3-dimensional (3D) work such as a sculpture or wood carving may not exceed a total of 60 inches (height + width + depth) and a total weight of 20 lbs. If you are submitting multiple pieces, their combined dimensions must not exceed 60 inches and 20 lbs.
 - c. Digital work such as photography should not exceed 10 images. If you are submitting multiple pieces, the combined 10 images should not exceed 24x24 inches. Digital work should be submitted both online and by flash drive.
 - d. All artwork should be of your own design. Anything created by artificial intelligence or plagiarism will be disqualified.
 - e. Physical art will need to be durable or stable enough for it to be moved.
6. ☐ Develop your art!
7. ☐ Create an **artist’s statement** that includes the **art form(s) or media** of the work and an explanation of the intent of the artwork and how it connects to the theme. The artist’s statement must be included with the entry form and not exceed 200 words.
8. ☐ Create a “**Works Cited**” list that includes **ALL** of your sources either directly cited or inspirational. For example, if you visited a museum and were inspired by what you saw there, please reference the museum. All copyright protected sources used must be cited! Ask your teacher or a trusted adult for help with this if you need it. You do not need to follow any specific format.
9. ☐ Submit your best work. Look over your art and review and make sure your final product is what you want.

10. ☐ Submit your electronic entry form including identifying information, works cited, artist's statement electronically on this website and your artwork in-person, with your identifying information on the back or with an accompanying piece of paper by January 23rd, 2026. Do not write on the front of your project as works will be judged blindly.
11. ☐ Please do not include any items of great independent monetary value in your work. If you win an award the winning pieces will be displayed in the Akron-Summit Public Library.

GUIDELINES

Information you may wish to consider when you are creating your art.

Theme: "Holocaust & Genocide: The Importance of Hope & Resistance."

This means learning about some of the darkest times in history — when groups of people were targeted and killed simply because of who they were — and understanding how people still found strength, courage, and hope even in those terrible times. Even though the Holocaust and genocides are filled with fear and loss, many people refused to give up. They resisted by fighting back, protecting others, keeping their faith, and holding onto hope for a better future. Some risked their lives to help others survive or to preserve their culture and identity. The theme also reminds us that hope and resistance are powerful tools. They help people face injustice and cruelty with courage. By studying the Holocaust and other genocides, we learn how important it is to stand up against hate and never lose hope, even when the world seems dark. Below are some ideas to get you started thinking about a project. You do NOT need to use any of them but they might help give you a place to start.

- **See some examples below.** You don't have to use them, but they may help you get started:
 - Visit a museum or a memorial and create artwork that reflects on the feelings, knowledge, stories or symbols of resistance and hope.
 - Take photographs that represent hope & resistance in the context of the Holocaust or genocides.
 - Interview a survivor or a relative of a survivor and create a piece that speaks to their experiences or witnessing hope and/or resistance.
 - Collect the first words your classmates think of when asked about resistance and hope in seemingly hopeless situations or spend time asking about what was and can be accomplished through well thought out resistance and the ability to maintain hope.
 - Research an act or acts of resistance or example of hope during the Holocaust and create art based on this/these example(s).

Types of Media

- Visual art entries may encompass one or more types of media, or art form.
- Types of media include but are not limited to, drawings, paintings, collages, sculpture, wood carving, crafts, origami, graphic design, photographs, and more.

- Visual art can use techniques like symbols, colors, scenery, structures, positioning, and more to develop a theme or meaning; the media you choose will help you focus on what your work should mean to the viewer.
- Multi-media work is frequently used in visual art. A painting can have a 3D component, a drawing can have a splash of color and can include a still-photo of someone. Do not limit yourself! If the photo(s) is of a minor(even yourself) please fill out our [consent form](#) and submit with your work.

Maximum of one Visual Art and one Written Entry per Student

VISUAL ART SCORING

- In the visual art category, all types of media (art forms) are scored together. However, there are 2 different contests (Division I Visual Arts (6th-8th grade) and Division II Visual Arts (9th-12th grade). You are competing against your similar age peers.
- To qualify for scoring, entries **must** meet the **REQUIREMENTS** listed above.
- Visual art entries are scored according to **originality, clarity, and craftsmanship**.
 - Originality refers to what extent the work is original or unique.
 - Clarity refers to how well the theme is clear and present in the work.
 - Craftsmanship refers to the quality of the technique, illustration, etc.
- All entries are judged blindly, meaning the judges do not know the name of the artist or the name of the school the student attends when they are judging the works.
- If a student enters a visual art and writing piece, they may only win in **one** category. In the rare event a student places in more than one category the prize received will be determined by a committee composed of board members of the Akron-Summit Council on Holocaust and Genocide Education.