

Akron-Summit Holocaust Arts and Writing Contest

2026 Theme: 'Holocaust & Genocide: The Importance of Hope and Resistance'

Entry Deadline January 23rd, 2026

WRITING ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This is what you *have* to do to enter the contest and have the best chance to win! You should check off this list as you work. Website entries are the preferred entry method. Items 3 & 4 only apply if you are submitting in a different format with prior approval from the contest administrator. If you cannot complete the online form please contact Laura Ralph at AkronSummitHolocaustEducation@gmail.com or (234) 200-6241.

1. ☐ Choose to write **fiction** or **non-fiction**.
2. ☐ Choose your sources from our **"2026 Resource List"** <https://akronsummitholocausteducation.org/>.
Do you want to use a history book, a biography, an interview, a museum, an article? Using resources listed on our webpage ensures that the information is accurate and reliable.
3. ☐ Create and include a "Works Cited" list that includes your sources. The "Works Cited" list does not need to follow any specific format and does not count as part of the word count.
4. ☐ Include a cover page with the title and the word count and **include the title on every page**.
5. ☐ Look over your work one last time and submit your final draft with the entry form!
6. ☐ Confirm receipt of entry with Administrator by the deadline of January 23rd, 2025.

WRITING GUIDELINES

This information will help you write and have the best chance to win! It might be helpful to read over this information before you start.

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

- **Ask yourself, what motivates resistance or allows people to maintain hope during the Holocaust and other genocides? What motivates someone to take a stand against these forces? What happens when we do and what happens if we don't?**
- **Show us Your Best Work:** Write a rough draft! Read and edit the rough draft. Write a final draft!
- What kind of paths can you take with this theme? **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 write a reflection on how you felt and how it impacted you.
 - Write a poem about resistance or hope during the Holocaust and other genocides.

- Research the Holocaust and another genocide that happened in history or is happening today. Discuss how this relates to hope or resistance. Discuss what people and places did to stand up to these forces during the Holocaust. What do people do to stand up to these forces today? Are these strategies effective?
- Write a story about a student from today and a student from the 1930's and 1940's and explore how different or similar their lives are and how this relates to the theme.
- Interview a survivor or a relative of a survivor and detail their experiences.
- Collect the first words your classmates think of when asked about hope and resistance in the face of hate, the Holocaust and/or another genocide.
- Take a poll of people you know and test them on their knowledge of the Holocaust. Use that information in a research paper.

Maximum of one Visual Art and one Written Entry per Student

SCORING FOR WRITING ENTRIES

- This year all types of writing are scored together. However, there are 2 different contests (Division I Writing (6th-8th grade) and Division II Writing (9th-12th grade). You are competing against your similar age peers.
- Writing entries are scored according to **originality**, **clarity**, and **craftsmanship**.
 - Originality refers to what extent the work is original or unique.
 - Any entry that includes plagiarism or AI (artificial intelligence) generated content as a representation of their original work will be immediately disqualified.
 - Clarity refers to how clear and present this year's contest theme is in the work.
 - Craftsmanship refers to the quality of the spelling, grammar, punctuation, and writing technique.
- All entries are judged blindly, meaning the judges do not know the name of the author or the name of the school that student attends.
- If a student enters a visual art and a 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.