



YOM HASHOAH 5786

Student Response Contest

Who is Eligible?

All Howard County middle school and high school students

Purpose of the Contest

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 year we will focus on telling stories of relatives who were lost in the Holocaust. This year, however, our storytellers will be telling stories **IN FIRST PERSON**.

The contest provides students an opportunity for reflection, and to consider how the atrocities of the Holocaust continue to impact us today. The hope is this will highlight the importance of standing up against hateful actions to prevent terrible events from happening in the future.

There will be first and second place prizes for each of the two types of entry, written (essay or poem) or art, awarded at the middle school and high school levels. **First Prize winners will each receive \$180 and Second Prize winners will each receive \$100**

Entry Background and Topic: Prompts

Think of yourself as a storyteller who witnessed what happened to someone in the Holocaust, imagining you are telling their story as though it happened to you—**IN FIRST PERSON**

- What is the difference between learning history from facts versus learning it through personal stories?
- What does it mean to be a witness to history if you were not there when it was made?
- Share a story about an object that carries an important memory?

In an essay, poem, or piece of art, share what you experienced and tell us your story **IN FIRST PERSON**

ESSAY SUBMISSIONS

- Essay must be titled and typed
- Essay must not include graphics, drawings, or other images
- Essay must be 200–400 words and clearly respond to the prompts

POEM SUBMISSIONS

- Poem must be titled and typed
- Poem must not include graphics, drawings, or other images
- Poem must be no longer than 30 lines and clearly respond to the prompts

ART SUBMISSIONS

- Art must include a title and statement (less than 100 words) of how the work addresses the prompts
- Art must be original, two-dimensional only, and must not exceed 12" x 18"
- Any medium may be used

Entries must be submitted by email no later than **March 27, 2026**

to remembrance@jewishhoco.org with **Middle School** or **High School** in the subject line

Please include a **separate** title page with your name, school name, grade, phone number, and email address

One entry (written or visual) per student. **Winners will be notified via email by April 6, 2026**

Entries will be judged by Howard County Holocaust Remembrance Committee members using a 4-point rubric incorporating common core standards



OPTION: YOU MAY ALSO USE THIS QR CODE TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY



Jewish Federation
of Howard County

TEACH THE SHOAH
THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH STORY