



2025 Yom Hashoah Student Response Contest

Survival, Liberation, and Renewal

Who's Eligible: All Howard County middle school and high school students

Purpose of the 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 year we will focus on the immediate aftermath which includes liberation, Displaced persons camps and Survival. 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 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 each type of the two types of entry, written (essay or poem) or art, 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.

Entry Background and Topic (Prompts):

Think of the words: *survival, liberation, and renewal.*

- **Was there a time when you were afraid that you, a family member, or good friend wouldn't survive?**
- **Perhaps you were liberated or got away from a bad situation?**
- **Have you ever felt renewed, changed, ready to begin again after you struggled with something and succeeded?**

In an essay, poem, or art, share how that experience makes you empathize with a survivor of the Holocaust living in a displaced persons camp*.

Suggested Resources:

*Displacement, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wFaiPDCt0v0>

*The Return to Life in the Displaced Persons Camps, <https://www.yadvashem.org/exhibitions/dp-camps.html>

*Why We Remember the Holocaust, <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance/resources/why-we-remember>

The Basic Things to Know:

<p>Essay must be titled and typed. Essay must not include graphics, drawings, or other images. Essay must be 200-400 words that clearly responds to the prompts.</p>	<p>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 responds to the prompts.</p>	<p>Art must include a title and statement (less than 100 words) of how the work addresses the prompt. Art must be original, two-dimensional only, and must not exceed 12" x 18". Any medium may be used.</p>
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- Entries should be submitted by email no later than March 1, 2025 to YomHaShoahEssayContest@gmail.com.
- Write **Middle School** or **High School** in the subject line. Include a separate title page with your name, school name, grade, contact phone number and/or email address.
- One entry (either written or visual) per student. Winners will be notified via email by March 31, 2025.

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