

CALL FOR ENTRIES

18th Annual

Israel Arbeiter Holocaust Essay Contest

This essay contest is a tribute to Israel “Izzy” Arbeiter z”l, who survived the Holocaust against all odds and lost most of his family, who were murdered by Nazis. He was a past president of the American Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Greater Boston. Izzy Arbeiter passed away in October of 2021. His essay contest will continue to be a part of his incredible legacy.

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to write a 400-800 word essay on the topics below.

Essays will be judged on originality, knowledge, style, and depth.

ESSAY PROMPTS

Please choose one of the following prompts:

1. Why is it important to listen to and preserve the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, and how can their stories inspire empathy and action in today’s world?
2. In a digital age marked by the rapid spread of hate speech and misinformation, how can the lessons of the Holocaust empower us to combat contemporary forms of prejudice and discrimination? Share a personal experience about a time you stood up against hate and discrimination.
3. (Open ended) Please write a freeform essay reflecting on what you have learned about the Holocaust at school or from your own research.
4. Write a response to one of the Holocaust survivor testimonies listed on this page.
5. Write a reflection essay on any of the following experiences:
 - Visit to the New England Holocaust Memorial
 - Interview a Holocaust survivor and share your reflections.
 - Invite a Holocaust survivor or 2nd generation survivor to your classroom and share what you learned.



Survivor Testimonies

Survivor Israel Arbeiter

- [Video: A Promise to my Father](#)

Survivor and Artist Samuel Bak

- [Illuminations: The Art of Samuel Bak](#)

Survivor and Poet Sonia Weitz

- [Testimony and biography of Sonia Weitz](#)

Survivor Rena Finder

- [Testimony and biography of Rena Finder](#)

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

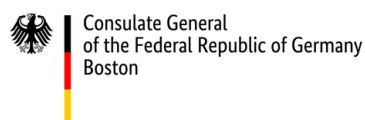
Essay entries are due by March 22nd, 2024. Essay contest winners will be recognized **in person** at the Holocaust Commemoration at Faneuil Hall on Sunday, May 5th, 2024 at 10AM. Winners are also invited to attend a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC on November 11th, 2024.

Please submit essay along with name, address, phone number, email, birthday, teacher, grade and school to **Joseph Katz** at jkatz@jcrCBoston.org. Essay finalists will be notified the week of April 15th.

In partnership with:



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of
Jewish Holocaust Survivors
& Descendants of Greater Boston



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CALL FOR ENTRIES

Community Holocaust Remembrance Program Poster Display & Presentation

The Holocaust Awareness poster reflection project is designed to help students visually demonstrate the lessons that they learned and their reflections. You will be invited to present your poster in person at Faneuil Hall for the Holocaust Commemoration on Sunday, May 5th at 10AM. **One winner will be invited to attend a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC on November 11th, 2024.**

A poster is **not** just a standard research paper stuck to a poster board. Rather, an effective poster **shows**, not tells. It allows you to express yourself in graphical terms.

Poster entries are due April 8th, 2024.

Key information to be included on the poster includes:

- A title for your poster and your name
- A brief description of the where/how you studied and learned about the Holocaust (ie. books you've read, videos/movies, units covered by your teachers, etc.)
- 5-7 takeaways or lessons you learned from these readings/videos/movies/lectures/materials
- Why the Holocaust matters to you personally
- Answer the following questions:
 - Did learning about the Holocaust have any impact on your future goals or plans, are you interested in learning more- what topics specifically interest you?
 - What can be done in your day-to-day life, in your school, on your sports teams, in your neighborhood, etc. to promote equality, understanding, peace?

TIPS FOR A GOOD POSTER

- Use visual logic, such as a hierarchical structure to organize the main points, to guide viewers
- Your information can be organized into boxes where text and visuals can be displayed (like this info sheet!)
- Avoid visual chaos created by having too many different sized boxes and distracting lines
- Main points are emphasized **visually**, using effects like descriptive, large type-face headings
- Posters should have a balance of narrative/text and visuals

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SAVING YOUR POSTER

You can use software like PowerPoint, Google Slides, or Keynote to create a slide. We recommend creating a **36"x24"** poster, using **20-26 pt.** font size.

The Presentation

While displaying your poster, we will ask you to distill your learnings into a roughly 3-minute presentation.

- Focus on your main takeaways and how they shaped your perception of the future
- Don't just read the information on the poster! Discuss your thought process and insights
- Write out what you want to say and *practice, practice, practice!*