



2023 Yom Hashoah Student Response Contest

The Bravery of Resistance - The 80th Anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising

Who's Eligible:

All Howard County students in Grades 7-12

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. 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 resisting hateful actions to prevent terrible events from happening again in the future.

There will be a first and second place prize, awarded at the middle and high school levels, for each type of the two types of entry, written (essay or poem) or art, awarded at both the middle and high school levels. Each First Prize winner will receive \$100 and each Second Prize winner will receive \$50.

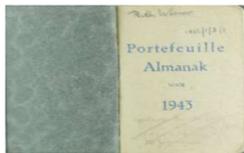
Entry Background and Topic (Prompts):

Although efforts of resistance were unable to stop the genocide by the Nazis, we must remember and pay tribute to all who resisted whether through armed uprisings, escape, hiding, cultural activity, or spirituality.



- Poem

On the 19th of April 1943, the Germans entered the Warsaw ghetto. The remaining Jews knew that the Germans would murder them and they decided to resist. The majority of the Jews who took part in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising were murdered, whether it was during the brutal suppression of the uprising, while attempting to escape the burning ghetto, in the camps, or on the Aryan side. Few survived the inferno. After watching the short video [Fighters in the Warsaw Ghetto | Holocaust Survivors Testimonies \(yadvashem.org\)](#), **write a poem that expresses the conflict between fear and pride, pride that came from being part of the Jewish defense of the ghetto.**



- Essay

Ruth Wiener was deported from Amsterdam to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944. She kept a secret diary inside the camps recording her experiences and details of the camps. **In what ways could keeping a diary be part of trying to stay alive and be thought of as resisting the Nazis? How does this kind of resistance compare with armed resistance?** Watch the short video [Resistance | Holocaust Encyclopedia \(ushmm.org\)](#) to understand what it meant to resist the Nazis.

(continued on next page)



- Art

Alexander Bogen, Jewish artist, partisan, and former ghetto resident, was bothered by a question: “What motivates someone at the precipice of death to engage in artistic creation?” Bogen sketched scenes of fighting, rest, ambush, and dress on random scraps of paper using charcoal made from burnt branches. “I would try to capture the typical situations that we would encounter—a unit returning from its operation... its members sitting around a bonfire, ...recounting the tales of what befell them...” recalls Bogen (<https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/bogen/about.asp>). After watching the short video [Resistance | Holocaust Encyclopedia \(ushmm.org\)](https://www.ushmm.org/learn/encyclopedias/articles/resistance) create a project (drawing, painting or related media) that brings to life the emotions and messages about resistance under Nazi occupation.

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>
---	---	---

- Entries should be submitted by email no later than March 15, 2023 to YomHaShoahEssayContest@gmail.com.
- Write your name 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 by April 1, 2023.

Judging:

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

