

# 2019 Holocaust Memorial Service Writing Competition

## Attention all Northwest Louisiana Middle School Students!

To remember the lives that were lost during one of humanity's worst periods, our community remembers the Holocaust with an annual memorial service. Through our remembering and active cooperation, we strive to obliterate injustice.

Because our future is only as strong as our youth, we are continuing our annual writing competition to encourage students to voice their understandings of the tragedy of the past and their hopes for the future.

### SHREVEPORT - BOSSIER HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

MAY 5, 2019      3 PM

BROADMOOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH      3715 Youree Drive Shreveport, LA 71105

[www.HolocaustRemembranceService.org](http://www.HolocaustRemembranceService.org)

### 2019 Middle School Topic

**BACKGROUND:** After studying the Shoah/Holocaust, read the following quotes and writing prompt to write an informational, research-based essay.

In his Nobel acceptance speech, Elie Wiesel states, "And that is why I swore never to be silent when and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." Another Holocaust survivor, Miles Lehrman, notes, "A perpetrator is not the most dangerous enemy. The most dangerous part is the bystander because neutrality always helps the killer."

These two Holocaust survivors both argue that one of the most important lessons that can be taken from their experiences is the issue of refusing to take sides or being a bystander instead of acting against the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. While there were many bystanders during this terrible time, there were also stories of people who acted as rescuers in a variety of ways. These rescuers put their lives at risk to save those who were endangered during the Holocaust, and these rescuers also held the conviction that even one person could make a difference.

**GUIDELINES:** Write a formal, well-researched essay of 300-350 words based on a Holocaust rescuer. Your final draft should be typed in 12-pont Arial font. In your explanatory essay, you will examine the research you have learned about your rescuer and convey that information to your audience. Be sure to include details about his or her personal life, the person(s) he or she rescued, and details about the rescue(s), as well as information on WHY they chose to become a rescuer. Submissions must represent the independent work of the student, but teachers may provide grammatical or spelling recommendations. Be sure to acknowledge author of sources within the essay and location of sources at the end of the paper. Include a header on each page (including Cover Page) with only title of entry and page number.

**COVER PAGE:** In order to be considered for a prize, each entry MUST have a cover page that contains ALL of the following:

- Student's name and home/cell number
- Student's grade level
- Teacher's name and contact information
- School name or "home schooled"

# 2019 Holocaust Memorial Service Middle School Writing Competition

## Judging

JUDGING CRITERIA - The decision of the judges is final.

1. Originality and creativity
2. Historical accuracy
3. Addresses the contest theme
4. Correct grammar and writing mechanics
5. Acknowledgement of sources within the essay and location of sources at the end of the paper

Contest judges review submissions with no knowledge of the writer's identity, school, or residence. In order to provide them with anonymous papers for judging, the body of the paper should not contain any information identifying the writer. The entry must be the original work of the student. Judges request that teachers review students' work and submit only entries worthy of being considered for judging. By submitting an entry, you are agreeing to all the judging criteria. The decision of the judges is final.

## Prizes

Prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Shoah Remembrance Committee. Some rewards may not be given, depending on the number of entries received and evaluation of merit by a panel of judges.

## Middle School Awards

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$200 Amazon Gift Card**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$100 Amazon Gift Card**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$50 Amazon Gift Card**

**Literary winners will be expected to attend the Holocaust Memorial Service.**

## Teacher Awards

- Teachers with students who submit qualifying entries in the writing competition will each receive a **\$25** Amazon gift certificate.
- Teachers who attend the Holocaust Remembrance Service with at least three of their students will receive an additional **\$25** Amazon gift certificate. (Teachers who attend the service with students need not have students submit entries to receive an award.)
- \* In addition to the winning students, contributing students, institutions, and award-winning teachers will be recognized during the Holocaust Remembrance Service.

## Deadline

Entries must be submitted to either of the following

**NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON MARCH 1**

- Hard copy, North Louisiana Jewish Federation, 245-A Southfield Road, Shreveport, LA 71105
- Electronically, [HolocaustLiteraryCompetition@gmail.com](mailto:HolocaustLiteraryCompetition@gmail.com)

*Unfortunately, we cannot accept submissions that do not adhere to all of these guidelines, that are submitted late, or come from students outside the Northwest Louisiana area (Caddo, Bossier, Webster, and DeSoto Parishes). Submissions will be retained by the Northwest Louisiana Jewish Federation, who will have the right to reprint winning entries in publications including local media/newspapers or posted online: [www.HolocaustRemembranceService.org](http://www.HolocaustRemembranceService.org).*

## Holocaust Related Web Sites to help with research

[www.holocaust-trc.org](http://www.holocaust-trc.org)

[www.holocaust-history.org](http://www.holocaust-history.org)

[www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)

[www.jfr.org](http://www.jfr.org)