



2023
STUDENT
RESEARCH
CONTEST

WHITE ROSE



Submissions due
MARCH 31, 2023

Open to 8th-12th
grade students

CONTEST AWARDS

- The top prize winner in each category and age level will be awarded a **\$300 prize**.
- The sponsoring teacher of each first prize winner will be awarded a **voucher worth \$150** for use on professional development and/or Holocaust resources.

QUESTIONS

Please email Megan Ferenczy Director of Education, mferenczy@vaholocaust.org.

ABOUT THE CONTEST

The 2023 contest theme is [Auschwitz and the Hungarian Deportations](#)

Seventy-seven years ago, in the spring of 1944, the Germans occupied Hungary. Between May 14 and July 9, approximately 440,000 Hungarian Jews—the last remaining intact Jewish community in Europe—were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, where most were subsequently murdered. This swift, concentrated destruction was aided by local collaborators, the Hungarian government, and law-enforcement agencies. It occurred when the Vatican, the International Red Cross, the Allies, and the neutral powers already knew details of the Holocaust, especially the Hungarian situation.

Using at least three of the documents below, plus a minimum of two outside resources, prepare an essay or documentary that addresses the contest theme.



From left to right: Hans Scholl, Sophie Scholl and Christoph Probst at Munich Ostbahnhof, deployment of the Munich Studentenkompanie to the Russian Front. Photo by Jürgen Wittenstein, 1942.

The contest is named in memory of the [White Rose](#), a resistance movement consisting of German university students. Among them were **Hans and Sophie Scholl**, along with several friends and their professor, were arrested and executed for distributing leaflets denouncing the policies of the Nazi regime. The project commemorates the efforts of these brave young people who gave their lives for what they believed in. May their memories inspire us to reflect upon our own responsibilities as citizens in a democratic nation.



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CONTEST INSTRUCTIONS

Using at least three of the documents provided below, plus a minimum of two outside resources, prepare an **essay OR documentary** that addresses all parts of the following topic:

Research: Describe preparations made by the Germans for the deportation of the Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz-Birkenau and place the experiences of one Hungarian Jewish person or family in historical context, explaining how that individual or family was affected by these circumstances.

Reflection: Today the former site of Auschwitz is a memorial and museum where artifacts are preserved and displayed. Discuss the importance of preserving sites like Auschwitz. In your opinion, what role can preservation play in maintaining the memory of the Holocaust?

You must base your research on at least three of the following documents. All documents referenced from this list are considered electronic sources and the Works Cited page should clearly denote that they were referenced from the VHM site. That citation can take any format chosen by the teacher.

DOCUMENTS

- [Preparatory work in Auschwitz](#)
- [Auschwitz Chronicle 1944](#)
- [Muller Testimony](#)
- [Vessenmayer Telegram](#)
- [Auschwitz Album](#)
- [In the Baker's Courtyard](#)
- [Eva Heyman Testimony](#)
- [Clara Daniels Bio and Interview](#)
- [Auschwitz Memorial and Museum](#)
- [The Auschwitz Protocol](#)
- [Lidia Rosenfeld Vago Testimony](#)
- [Bart Stern Describes Deportation to Auschwitz](#)
- [Barbara Marton Farkas Describes Deportation from Hungary to Auschwitz](#)

ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY INFORMATION

The White Rose Student Research Contest is open to 8th-12th grade students.

- Each contestant is limited to one entry per year.
- Previous winners may enter again.
- Projects will be evaluated on historical accuracy, development of content and theme, and original expression [according to this rubric](#).
- All entries become property of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and will not be returned.
- Applicants give the Virginia Holocaust Museum permission to reprint entries.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Entries are accepted in two categories – documentary or essay.
- Entries are accepted in two age divisions – 8-9th grade and 10-12th grade.
- We ask students and educators to respect the privacy of the survivors and to refrain from conducting personal interviews

PRIZES & SPONSORS

Prizes

- Finalists will be identified by a panel of judges and honored at the Museum's Yom HaShoah program.
- The top prize winner in each category and age level will be awarded a \$300 prize.
- The sponsoring teacher of each first prize winner will be awarded a voucher worth \$150 for use on professional development and/or Holocaust resources.

Sponsors

The contest is sponsored by generous donors that are committed to supporting Holocaust education.



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ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

Criteria

- Evidence of comprehensive and accurate historical research
- Utilization and consistent citation of at least three of the designated documents and two additional resources
- Adherence to theme, demonstrating substantial supporting detail
- Proper citations – all citation styles are accepted, but citations must be consistent
- Essays must be free of plagiarism.
- Works Cited – only sources cited in the body of the paper should appear on the Works Cited.
- Maximum of 1200 words.
- Essay must be submitted by email to Megan Ferenczy, Director of Education mferenczy@vaholocaust.org by March 31st, 2023.

All entries become property of Virginia Holocaust Museum and will not be returned. Applicants give the Virginia Holocaust Museum permission to reprint entries. Decisions of the judges are final.

Guidelines for Educators

- The Virginia Holocaust Museum encourages teachers to utilize this writing contest as a classroom exercise.
- Each essay should reflect the student's own work, guided, and reviewed, but not edited in detail by the sponsoring teacher.
- Entries must be submitted by the contest deadline.
- Finalists and their sponsoring teacher will be recognized at the Museum's Yom HaShoah program.
- All entries become property of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and will not be returned.
- Applicants give the Virginia Holocaust Museum permission to reprint entries.
- Decisions of the judges are final.



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DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Criteria

- A documentary is an audio/visual presentation that uses multiple source types such as images, video, and sound to communicate your historical argument, research, and interpretation of your response to this year's topic. The reflection portion of your documentary should not exceed two minutes.
- Your documentary must be an original production.
- Documentaries should be at least seven minutes and not exceed ten minutes in length.
- The last portion of your documentary must be a list of acknowledgments and credits for sources of moving footage, interviews, music, and images that appear in the documentary. These source credits must be brief—not full bibliographic citations and not annotated.
- MP4 format submitted as a YouTube link.
- If selected as a finalist students must submit the mp4 file to the Virginia Holocaust Museum

Process Paper

- Your entry must include a process paper. A process paper is a description of how you conducted your research and created your entry.
- The process paper must be 500 words and must not include quotes, images, or captions. Your process paper must answer the following questions:
 1. How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to this year's theme?
 2. How did you conduct your research?
 3. How did you create your project?
 4. What is your historical argument?

Guidelines for Educators

- VHM encourages teachers to utilize this writing contest as a classroom exercise.
- There is no limit to the number of entries each teacher can submit.
- Each essay should reflect the student's own work, guided, and reviewed, but not edited in detail by the sponsoring teacher.
- Entries must be submitted by the published deadline.
- Finalists and their sponsoring teacher will be recognized at a reception in the Virginia Holocaust Museum's Yom HaShoah program.
- All entries become the property of the Virginia Holocaust Museum and will not be returned.
- Applicants give the Virginia Holocaust Museum permission to reprint entries.
- The decisions of the judges are final.

Works Cited

Your works cited must meet the following requirements:

- List all sources that you utilized in developing your entry
- Separate your Works Cited into two sections: one for sources from the required set of documents and one for sources you found to supplement your research.
- Do not attach materials to your Works Cited.



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2023, 5:00 pm

Student Information

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

WHAT TYPE OF ENTRY ARE YOU SUBMITTING? ESSAY DOCUMENTARY

Parent(s) / Guardians(s)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Sponsoring Teacher

Teacher(s) Name(s): _____

School: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Teacher's Email: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Email: _____

Superintendent's Name: _____

Superintendent's Email: _____



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I understand that the work submitted for the Virginia Holocaust Museum's Visual Arts Competition **must be original.**

Date

Signature