

2023 – 2024

WALDMAN INTERNATIONAL ARTS AND WRITING COMPETITION

Toolkit / Instruction Booklet



2023–2024 Waldman International Arts and Writing Competition

We are excited to continue the three-round format for the Waldman International Arts and Writing competition! In this format, **you** – the teachers and students – have the opportunity to be recognized in our three rounds of judging, eligible for three levels of prizes!

How does it work?

- Each school has one “teacher sponsor,” a representative who oversees the school’s first round competition, submits the school’s finalists, and communicates with the Holocaust Center and acts as a liaison to winning students when necessary.
- Any time between now and February, teacher sponsors sign their school up to participate. Please note, it is free to participate in the competition, but schools are required to register. A public-facing list will be made available to show which schools are participating.
 - We encourage teachers to register by December 2023 to stay up-to-date on correspondence, and so we can publicize the list of participating schools and their contest deadlines.
- **ROUND 1:** Any time between now and February, each participating school will host “Round 1-school” judging, selecting **up to 4 students for high school (up to 1 per category)** and **up to 3 students for middle school (up to 1 per category)** as finalists. Schools will host their own in-school competition and judging, to be run as the school sees fit.
 - Please note that all entries will be expected to adhere to the subject prompt and guidelines laid out by the Holocaust Center for this contest to be considered for prizes beyond the school judging level.
 - Please view the “Suggested Contest Timeline” under “For Teacher Sponsors” (pg 7) to make sure you have enough time for judging and submission!
- **ROUND 2:** Between December–February, the teacher sponsor will submit up to **4 finalists for high schools (up to 1 per category)** and **up to 3 finalists for middle schools (up to 1 per category)** to the Holocaust Center for regional judging. All writing submissions must be uploaded to the provided Google Drive folder, while the physical 2-D and 3-D art pieces must be turned into the Holocaust Center in-person. The due date for all submissions is **Thursday, February 8, 2024 by 5:30 pm.**
- **ROUND 3:** Grand prize judging.
- All winners are announced March–April 2024.
- Award ceremony will be held on the evening of Thursday, May 9, 2024.

For students: What if my school isn’t running a competition?

Students interested in submitting to the competition should check the [list of registered teacher sponsors](#) to see if their school already has a teacher they can submit their work to/through. If a single/independent student wishes to submit their artwork and their school is not running a competition or does not yet have a teacher sponsor listed, they must find a teacher to act as a submitting sponsor. School registration is free.

Resources and Next Steps

Next Steps for EDUCATORS

- **Step 1** – Check the [list of registered schools/teacher sponsors](#) to see if your school is already registered to participate in the competition. If so, skip ahead to step 3. If not, proceed to step 2.
- **Step 2** – [Click here](#) to register your school and become the “Teacher Sponsor” of your school’s Waldman Arts and Writing Competition (registration form available now through February 2, 2024). Please note, only teachers (or administrators) may register to be a “Teacher Sponsor.” There can only be one “Teacher Sponsor” per school.
- **Step 3** – Review the “Information for teacher sponsors” (pg 7) for details on conducting Round 1 competition and submitting work for Round 2.
- **Step 4** – Use the [Google Slides Presentation](#) to introduce the competition to your students.
- **Step 5** – Review and share the Waldman Competition Resources with your students.
 - [Printable Rubrics](#) (pdf)
 - [Digital Rubrics](#) (Google Sheet): If you’d like to use this tool to tally the scores for your school’s “Round 1” of judging (to pick the one “winner” in each category who you will submit to the Holocaust Center for “Round 2” of judging), you can make a copy in Google Sheets, which you will then be able to edit..
 - [Printable Classroom QR poster](#) (directs students to all the files below)
 - [Contest Instructions](#); [Prizes](#), [Key Dates](#), [FAQs](#) Posters; [Student Resource Folder](#)

Next Steps for STUDENTS

- **Step 1** – Be sure your school is registered for the competition and has an official “Teacher Sponsor.”
- **Step 2** – Learn more about the theme of the competition, “*Rescue During the Holocaust*,” with your teacher and use the Holocaust Center’s list of [Suggested Resources](#).
- **Step 3** – Read the “Instructions for Students” to learn more about the competition and deadlines.
- **Step 4** – Choose your category – 2-D art, 3-D art, poetry/graphic prose, or essay (grades 9-12 only) – then, choose at least one primary source and/or a story from the Holocaust Center’s comic book series, *CHUTZ-POW! – Superheroes of the Holocaust*, to inspire and guide your work.
- **Step 5** – Create! Make your original work of art or writing!
- **Step 6** – Check and re-check the rubric and instructions, then submit your project to your “Teacher Sponsor” for school-level “Round 1” judging. Don’t forget your artist statement and bibliography!

For Educators

Each participating “Teacher Sponsor” (i.e., the one *Waldman Competition* teacher representative for each school) will receive a **\$50 stipend** at the end of the competition (limit of one per school).

For Students

There are 4 categories of submission (2-D Art, 3-D Art, Poetry/Graphic Prose, Essay/Response Paper) and 3 rounds of judging (school level, regional level, and grand prize level). The award structure is as follows:

Round 1 – School Prizes: CHUTZ-POW! (school-based judging – your school picks the winners)

For each participating school, one student artist in each of the categories will be recognized by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh as the winning Waldman Competition representatives for their school. Each student will receive a certificate of recognition, a set of all four CHUTZ-POW! comic books, and an opportunity to advance to Round 2.

Round 2 – Seven Pittsburgh-area Winners – Cash Prizes! (Holocaust Center judging)

A total of four high school students and three middle school students will be chosen as the winners in Round 2. Each winner will receive at least \$100 in a cash prize, an award certificate, and a book about the Holocaust.

Round 3 – One Grand Prize Winner – (Holocaust Center judging)

The grand prize winner will receive an additional cash prize.

- **September 18, 2023:**

Teachers can begin registering as “Teacher Sponsors” by using the Google Form [found here](#).

- **December 1, 2023:**

Teacher sponsors can begin submitting the art and writing pieces of their school’s student winners for Round 2 consideration. Writing pieces will be submitted using the personalized Google Drive folder provided by the Holocaust Center after registering as a teacher sponsor. Art pieces must be delivered to the Holocaust Center by February 8. The Holocaust Center will provide a delivery address to the Teacher Sponsor.

- **February 8, 2024:**

Final day for teacher sponsors to submit their school’s finalists for Round 2 consideration. Submissions must be delivered by 5:30 pm.

- **February–March, 2024:**

Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh judging period.

- **April 2024:**

Up to seven “Round 2” winners (including one Grand Prize winner) of the 2022–2023 Waldman International Arts and Writing Competition will be announced as part of the Holocaust Center’s *Genocide Awareness Month* programming.

- **May 9, 2024:**

Award Ceremony at Chatham University.

What geographic area is eligible for participating in the competition?

For the 2023-2024 competition, we will accept submissions from schools located in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia.

Do students have to be “sponsored” by a school or can they enter the contest on their own?

Student work must be submitted via a registered teacher sponsor, who can be a teacher or administrator. Works submitted without a school/teacher sponsorship will not be eligible for awards.

Are students who attend a home school, alternative school, or other nontraditional education center eligible to participate?

Yes, all educational facilities that serve grades 6 – 12 are eligible to participate in the contest.

Can a student use images from the Internet in their project?

Written permission from the copyright holder is required for images and film clips that do not belong to the student or are not in the public domain.

How long can teachers register to be teacher sponsors?

Teachers can register to be a teacher sponsor up until the contest closes on February 8. We highly encourage teachers to register as soon as possible to maximize our correspondence and to help us ensure that a wide range of schools are participating in the contest.

Can multiple teachers be teacher sponsors?

Yes, but we ask that you designate a single point-of-contact for your correspondence/work with the Center. There will only be one \$50 sponsor prize allotted to each school, disbursed to this point-of-contact, regardless of the number of participating teachers.

I am an educator who signed up to be a teacher sponsor, but I can no longer do it. What should I do?

Another teacher must sign up to be the teacher sponsor, or we will be unable to consider submissions from your school. It is your responsibility to find a substitute.

Can work be submitted after the deadline?

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any submissions after the deadline, February 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

For Teacher Sponsors:

Suggested Contest Timeline (and submission links)

- **ASAP:** Register yourself and your school with the Holocaust Center as participants in the competition using this [Google Form](#); establish submission deadline.
- **Any time between now and January:** Share information about the competition with your classroom/school using the [teacher toolkit](#); select a group of teachers and/or students to act as a panel of judges.
- **December or January:** In-school submission deadline; assemble your panelists and hold judging. You may choose to have first, second, third place winners, etc. OR a single winner in each category. It's up to you to decide how you want to format your in-school judging.
- **No later than February 8, 5:30 pm:** Submit your winners in the writing categories using the google drive folder provided by the Center after registering as a Teacher Sponsor for the writing submissions. Pieces in the 2-D and 3-D art categories must be submitted to the Holocaust Center in-person. Please use the guidelines below to ensure all necessary information is provided.
- **January-April:** Celebrate your students! Feel free to celebrate and/or publicly announce the in-school winners of the competition to honor the achievements of your students!

Submitting to the Holocaust Center

Submissions to the Holocaust Center open December 2023 for Round 2 and Round 3 consideration. After registering as a Teacher Sponsor, you will receive a personalized Google Folder to upload the titles and creators of each winning piece per category, plus the poetry/graphic prose/essay pieces. Please note again: 2-D and 3-D art must be delivered to the Holocaust Center by Thursday, February 8 at 5:30 pm.

Award Categories:

- Middle School, grades 6-8 (3 categories total): Poetry/Graphic Prose; 2-D Art; 3-D Art
- High School, grades 9-12 (4 categories total): Poetry/Graphic Prose; 2-D Art; 3-D Art; Essay/Response Paper

Writing

Teacher Sponsors must submit their student "Round 1" Poetry/Graphic Prose and Essay/Response winners' work in PDF format to the provided Google Drive folder, along with the following information:

- On a SEPARATE PAGE(s)* from the work, please include:
 - Student name, grade, and contact information
 - Student's artist statement (with MLA-style bibliography), if required for that category

Art

Teacher Sponsors must submit all 2-D and 3-D art pieces in-person before the deadline. Please contact the Holocaust Center to coordinate drop off.

- On a SEPARATE PAGE(s)* from the work, please include:
 - Student name, grade, and contact information
 - Student's artist statement (with MLA-style bibliography), if required for that category

*It is required that this information is submitted on a separate page so that judging can take place anonymously. It is ok to submit within the same PDF file, as long as the pages are separate.

Instructions for Students:

Dear Students,

You are invited to submit a piece of art or writing to the Waldman Arts and Writing Competition hosted by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh! Details of the types of work suitable for each category, as well as requirements for your submission, can be found below and in [these judging rubrics](#).

Students in grades 6 through 12 may submit work in any of these three categories:

1. 2-D Art
2. 3-D Art
3. Poetry/Graphic Prose

High school students (grades 9-12) may also participate in a fourth category:

4. Essay/Response Paper

Prizes/Awards

Once you submit your piece to your Teacher Sponsor, there are up to 3 rounds of judging (school level, regional level, and grand prize level). The award structure is as follows:

Round 1 – School Prizes: CHUTZ-POW!

Up to four students per high school (up to one per category) and up to three students per middle school (up to one per category) will be recognized by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh as the winning Waldman Competition representatives for their school. Each winning student will receive a certificate of recognition and a set of all four CHUTZ-POW! comic books.

Round 2 – Regional Prizes: Cash!

Four high school students and three middle school students will be chosen from across all submissions as the winners of each category. Each winner will receive a cash prize of at least \$100, an award certificate, and a book about the Holocaust.

Round 3 – Grand Prize

As the overall grand prize winner, one student will win an additional cash prize..

Winning students from all three rounds of judging are invited to a celebratory event on May 9, 2024, with winners from around the region. Please note that depending on the number and quality of submissions, there is a chance that awards will not be issued in every category.

Categories 1, 2, and 3: 2-D Art, 3-D Art, and Poetry/Graphic Prose

For the categories of Poetry/Graphic Prose, 2-D Art, and 3-D Art, we ask that students submit a piece that addresses the prompt below.

When thinking about the Holocaust, we often focus on the failure of individuals to act while they watched atrocities take place right in front of their eyes. We know what it means to be a bystander, but do we know what it means and what it looks like to be an upstander? An upstander is someone who acts to make a situation right, such as those who take action in the face of injustice. While there were many bystanders during the Holocaust, there were still heroic upstanders who strived to do the right thing when they saw the persecution that was taking place around them. There were both Jewish and non-Jewish individuals who acted either on their own or in organized efforts to aid Jewish people in evading harm, often risking their own lives in the process. The efforts of these upstanders are the subject of the 2023-2024 Waldman Competition theme: Rescue During the Holocaust.

Rescue is broadly defined as “to free from confinement, danger, or evil.” In this instance, rescue focuses on action taken by individuals and groups to aid in the survival of Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Rescuers came from a variety of backgrounds and utilized an assortment of methods when it came to providing aid. Raoul Wallenberg, for instance, was a Swedish Architect who was granted diplomatic status by the Swedish government. While acting in official capacity with assistance from the governing body of Sweden, Wallenberg led one of the most comprehensive rescue efforts of the Holocaust. In contrast, Oskar Schindler was a German industrialist who was once a member of the Nazi Party, yet he saved the lives of 1,200 Jews by employing them in his factories. Another rescuer, Irena Sendler, was a Polish social worker and nurse who smuggled Jews out of the Warsaw Ghetto. These are just a few examples of heroic upstanders who took part in rescue efforts during the Holocaust, and still, they showcase the diversity of those who took action and the strategies they employed.

We ask that students reflect on the ideas of **rescue** using primary sources, true stories, and testimonies of the Holocaust.

We are looking for entries that reflect genuine engagement with individual experiences in a historical context, and constitute a thoughtful and creative response. Judging will take place using the provided [rubrics](#).

Sources / Bibliography

Entrants must utilize historical sources as inspiration for your work, which are to be documented in an MLA-style bibliography that will be submitted along with your piece. Works must utilize at least one primary source and/or the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh's CHUTZ-POW! comic book series. Fictional accounts will not be considered valid sources. Suggested resources can be [found here](#).

Examples of primary sources include:

- Oral testimonies and oral histories
- Journal and diary entries
- Memoirs and autobiographies
- Interviews and other audio/visual recordings
- Newspaper articles from the time period ([history unfolded](#))

Artist Statement

Your submission must also include an artist statement. The artist statement must include the title of the piece and may not exceed 100 words (the title does not count toward the word count limit). [This article](#) goes into much deeper detail on what an artist statement is and how to come up with one.

An artist statement can/should answer the following questions:

- What materials did you use to create your piece, and why did you choose the medium/materials that you did?
- What is the message of your piece?
- What kind of personal meaning does that message have to you?
- What is/are symbolic images that you used in your piece?
- Why did you use them/it?

In summary, with your work of art or writing, be sure to include:

- Your name and contact information (All projects must be individual; no group projects)
- MLA-style bibliography
- Artist Statement

Submitting your work to your Teacher Sponsor

Please submit your piece, sources, and artist statement to your Teacher Sponsor by the deadline they provide. If selected as one of the winning works of art or writing in your school, and if you met all the requirements and deadlines of the competition, your Teacher Sponsor will submit your name for Round 2 of judging by the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh.

Category 4 – Essay/Response Paper (High School Only)

The fourth category, Essay/Response Paper (high school only), follows a different format than the other three categories. The rules are as follows:

- Instead of the prompt for the other three, applicants are asked to respond to the prompt below.
- In your response, you must cite specific examples from all three of the provided resources.
- No artist statement or bibliography is required.
- Your response must be 1000 words or less.

Essay prompt:

How has antisemitism changed throughout history, and how has it remained the same? Why does it matter to learn about antisemitism, and how do you think studying the Holocaust can help us break this cycle in the future?

Required resources – Antisemitism Then and Now:

- Resource 1: [Why the Jews: History of Antisemitism](#) by United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Resource 2: [The White Rose](#) by Wayne Wise, M.L. Walker, Fred Wheaton (From the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh’s CHUTZ–POW! series)
- Resource 3: [Skin in the Game: How Antisemitism Animates White Nationalism](#) by Eric K. Ward

Please note that a response paper is a brief essay that explains your thoughts about a reading. It is not a research paper, nor is it simply a summary of the work. A response paper should demonstrate your understanding of the material by giving an original response (i.e., your thoughts) to the content of the material.

Thank you! Have questions about the competition?

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