

**THE IDA KRAMER  
“CHILDREN AND THE HOLOCAUST”  
ESSAY CONTEST**

**sponsored by  
The Quad Cities Yom Hashoah Committee**

A poet once remarked that the death of a child is the loss of infinite possibilities. What, then, can be said about the more than one-and-a-half million Jewish children who were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust years (1933-1945)? Of course, many more boys and girls suffered unimaginable hardships and bore witness to the brutality of the Nazis. Some survived. Many did not. Regardless of how experiences varied from country to country, children's lives were changed forever. The purpose of this essay contest is to record the stories that must be told to yesterday's, today's and tomorrow's children.

**Part A:** Research the history of a specific child or youth who was caught in or witnessed the events of the Holocaust in Europe. This person could have lived in a ghetto, been hidden, carried out clandestine activities, been a part of a kindertransport, known the horrors of concentration camps and/or experienced the Holocaust in a myriad of other ways. He or she could have been a Jew or a non-Jew, or have been a part of a family or a group of children suffering the same fate. Describe the conditions under which this individual lived and the circumstances that impacted his/her life during the Holocaust years. If he or she survived, briefly explain what happened after 1945.

**Part B:** Tell how learning about the Holocaust through the personal story of this one individual makes the Holocaust more meaningful to you.

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**ENTRIES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO BE SENT ELECTRONICALLY AS AN ATTACHMENT TO [aross@jfqc.org](mailto:aross@jfqc.org) OR MAILED TO THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF THE QC, 2715 30<sup>TH</sup> STREET, ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201**  
(For an Entry Form, see below, email [aross@jfqc.org](mailto:aross@jfqc.org) or call 309/793-1300)

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**Entry deadline – March 1 Annually**

**OPEN TO STUDENTS IN GRADES 7-12 IN THE GREATER QUAD CITIES  
AREA, ILLINOIS AND IOWA**

\*\*\*\*A \$500 Scholarship will be awarded to the winner of this contest, with \$200 for 2nd place and \$100 for 3rd place. If a classroom teacher has assisted, the teacher of the 1st place winner will receive a \$100 gift certificate, and teachers of the second and third place winners will receive \$50 each. The winning essay will be read at the Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance service, scheduled each year in April or May.

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**“CHILDREN AND THE HOLOCAUST” ESSAY CONTEST**  
**Criteria, Content and Mechanical Specifications**

1. **The essay and completed Entry Form, signed by the student and parent, must be submitted no later than March 1 of each year. *An electronic copy is much preferred, but a paper copy may be submitted. No late entries will be judged.***
2. Each contestant is limited to one entry per year. Participants from previous years may enter again if they have not previously won first prize.
3. Essays will be evaluated on development of content and theme, original expression, historical accuracy, grammar and mechanics. They must meet the following criteria:
  - Adherence to theme - details about an actual child or youth, boy or girl, who experienced the Holocaust;
  - Evidence of historical research - comprehensive and accurate; not written in the first-person or as fiction; substantial supporting detail with a minimum of direct quotes;
  - Synthesis of information - gathered from a variety of electronic and non- electronic sources, all properly cited; all citation styles are accepted, but citations must be consistent; internal citations, footnotes, or endnotes are acceptable;
  - Essays must be free of plagiarism - those passages copied directly from other sources, without proper citations, or containing vast amounts of quoted or minimally paraphrased material are subject to disqualification.
  - Personal insight – describing own feelings and using a creative writing style;
  - Typed - double-spaced on 8 1/2” x 11” plain white paper, with one-inch margins and size 12 font; use only one side of the paper;
  - Maximum of 1200 words; all words in the body of the essay are counted in the total; internal citations do not count;
  - Error-free – no more than two errors in grammar, spelling or other mechanics;
  - If a paper copy is submitted – staple it in the upper left corner; the student’s name and address should appear **ONLY** on a cover sheet and not on other pages of the essay to ensure blind judging; do not use a cover or binder;
  - Completed entry form - original signatures where indicated.
4. Each student will receive confirmation by email that an essay has been received or he/she can include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a confirmation by mail. All entries become property of the Quad Cities Yom Hashoah Committee and will not be returned. Students give the Quad Cities Yom Hashoah Committee permission to reprint entries. Decisions of the judges are final.
5. **Entries for this contest, including the Entry Form, should be sent in an email attachment to [aross@ifgc.org](mailto:aross@ifgc.org) or should be mailed to: The Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, 2715 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Rock Island, IL 61201**

**THE IDA KRAMER**  
**“CHILDREN AND THE HOLOCAUST” ESSAY CONTEST**  
**Entry Form**

**To be completed by the Student:**

First Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay \_\_\_\_\_

I confirm that this essay is expressed in my own words and is the result of my individual research. I understand that in order to be considered for judging, my essay must meet all contest criteria.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Must be signed by Parent or Guardian:**

I confirm that the student named above has met the criteria for the “Children and the Holocaust” Essay Contest. I understand that if this essay is selected as the winner, she/he will be notified in writing and will be honored at the Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance service. I understand that the Quad Cities Yom Hashoah Committee will retain ownership of the entry and I grant permission to reprint it. I also understand that a cash prize will be awarded to further this student’s education.

Parent or Guardian’s Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**OPTIONAL:****To be filled out by a Sponsoring Teacher:**

If a teacher supported the student in completing this essay, such as having the student write it as part of a class assignment or project, please fill out the information below:

Teacher’s Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_ Subject (s) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

ESSAY # \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>THE IDA KRAMER</b></p> <p><b>“CHILDREN AND THE HOLOCAUST” ESSAY CONTEST</b></p> <p><b>Evaluation Sheet</b></p>
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- \_\_\_\_\_ **1. Format:** The essay conforms to all format criteria: 5 pts.  
 -Name and address only on the cover sheet  
 -Typed, double-spaced, 8 ½ x 11” white paper  
 -single-sided, 1” margins; maximum of 1200 words  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **2. Development of Theme:** Describes how one child/youth 40 pts.  
 experienced the Holocaust; demonstrates well-organized ideas  
 with strong supporting details.  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **3. Historical Content:** Evidence of comprehensive and accurate 20 pts.  
 historical research.  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **4. Personal Connection:** Concludes with a heartfelt response ex- 10 pts.  
 plaining how learning about the Holocaust through the story of  
 one individual made the Holocaust meaningful to the writer.  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **5. Original Expression/Creativity:** Reflects sincere passion, 10 pts.  
 interpretation, and a unique writing style.  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **6. Documentation:** Consistently uses footnotes, endnotes or 10 pts.  
 internal citations; information was gathered from a variety of  
 electronic and non-electronic sources, and is cited properly;  
 uses a minimum of direct quotes.  
 Comments:
- \_\_\_\_\_ **7. Grammar/Mechanics:** No more than two errors in grammar, 5 pts.  
 spelling and mechanics.  
 Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL /OUT OF A POSSIBLE 100 PTS.