The Pestka Family, in memory of their father and grandfather, Henry Pestka, a Holocaust survivor, is proud to bring Holocaust awareness and education to West Michigan students in grades 6-12 through an art and poetry contest. This contest is designed for students who are completing the Michigan state requirement on Holocaust and Genocide Education and enables them the opportunity to process and reflect on the concepts they learned through writing or art.

Entries accepted January 16, 2024 through March 15, 2024.

PRIZES FOR EACH GRADE
1st Place $150
2nd Place $100
3rd Place $50

The top 10 finalists in each grade will have their work displayed, and be invited to attend and be recognized at an event in May 2024. Finalists who attend the event will also receive a gift.

Entries may be prose, poetry, or art.
Open to 6th-12th grade students living in a West or Southwest Michigan County.

Finalists will be notified in early April of 2024.

Learn More

THIS YEAR'S THEME
Hope

How do art and writing not only create historical context for human experiences, but also offer hope in the face of tragedy?

“That’s the difficulty in these times: ideals, dreams, and cherished hopes rise within us, only to meet the horrible truth and be shattered. It’s really a wonder that I haven’t dropped all my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet, I keep them, because in spite of everything I still believe that people are good at heart.”

- Anne Frank, Diary of a Young Girl

This collection of lessons and resources is designed to prepare and support educators in teaching curriculum related to the Holocaust. Students are encouraged to use this content as the foundation for their projects.