

The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership presents
**The Henry Pestka
Art & Poetry Contest**

WGVU.ORG/PESTKA



Dear Administrators and Educators,

At a time when Anti-Semitism across the United States is significantly increasing, and with Michigan at number five on the list of states with the highest number of incidents, Holocaust Education for Michigan students could not be more critical. According to the Anti-Defamation League:

Antisemitic incidents tracked in the 2021 Audit of Antisemitic incidents reached an all-time high of 2,717 in the United States last year – an average of more than seven incidents per day and a 34 percent increase year over year, including assaults, harassment and vandalism. This is the highest number on record since ADL began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979. <https://www.adl.org/audit-antisemitic-incidents-2021>

The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership has collaborated to curate a collection of resources to support educators and students in meeting Michigan State Holocaust and Genocide Education Standards. These lessons and activities, including a virtual fieldtrip to The West Michigan Holocaust Memorial at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, are designed to prepare and support educators in teaching curriculum related to the Holocaust.

Additionally, the West Michigan Holocaust Partners have come together to sponsor the Henry Pestka Art & Poetry Contest for 6th through 12th grade students. The 2022-2023 theme is “Never Forget”. The top ten finalists in each grade will have their work displayed in a collection and be invited to attend and be recognized at our culminating event in April 2023, both in a space generously provided by Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park. The top three Finalists in each grade will further qualify for a cash prize (1st Place \$150, 2nd Place \$100, 3rd Place \$50) generously provided by The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund.

We would like to enthusiastically invite your students to participate in the Contest. For planning purposes, we would greatly appreciate a confirmation of your commitment via our Google form (QR code is below). Regardless of Contest participation, all educators and students are welcome to utilize the curriculum and fieldtrip. Please feel free to reach out to education@wgvu.org with any questions. We look forward to recognizing your students' work!

Kind Regards,

The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership



Contest Webpage



Curriculum & Fieldtrip



Commitment Form

