



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

WGUVU.ORG/PESTKA



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

All too often images of the Holocaust we remember are those created by the perpetrators. We see people humiliated, starved and beaten, dressed in rags or tawdry striped uniforms, robbed of their humanity. If our study of the Holocaust ends there, we victimize these people a second time.

But when we engage survivor testimonies or memoirs, we come to see those targeted by the Nazis as individuals, meeting them as people who gave and received love, and for whom the memory of those they loved was a source of extraordinary strength. Love nourished their soul and sometimes inspired hope.

Though the Holocaust was a painfully tragic time in human history, there were everyday people who acted heroically, even when facing the most hopeless situations. Whether it was a Jewish prisoner who aided other victims, righteous gentiles who sheltered the Jews or local people who spoke out, there were glimmers of hope in an otherwise terrible time.

The Henry Pestka Art and Poetry Contest (The Contest) is coordinated by The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership (The Partnership), beginning on October 3, 2022, and ending on February 10, 2023*. Finalists will be notified approximately March 3, 2023*. * The Partnership reserves the option to extend this deadline due to circumstances impacting our region/state (such as COVID).

The Partnership consists of: ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Michigan, East Grand Rapids Public Schools, Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Valley State University, The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, TPS Teachers Network and WGUVU Public Media. The Partnership collaborated to curate a collection of resources and aligned The Contest to support educators and students in meeting Michigan State Holocaust and Genocide Education Standards. Members of The Partnership with proximity to student entries, including EGRPS faculty and staff, will not be permitted to judge entries.

**The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership Curriculum, Education Resources & Virtual Fieldtrip
can be found at wgvu.org/pestka.**

Eligibility & Entry Guidelines

- No purchase necessary to enter or win.
- Entrants are highly encouraged to use the accompanying curriculum and resources as the foundation for their projects.
- Entrants must reside in a **West and Southwest Michigan county** and be enrolled in (or equivalent to) **6th – 12th grade** during the 2022-2023 school year in a public, private, faith-based, charter, or home-school setting.
- Entries must be individual projects, and only one entry per person will be accepted; all subsequent entries will be disqualified.
- **Each entry must include a completed official Contest Entry Form**, with the required teacher/school information and parent/guardian permission, confirming that the entry is the student's original work, and granting certain rights to entry materials. The entry form must be complete and legible to be eligible.
- It is the responsibility of each parent, teacher and/or advisor to obtain and read these contest rules, requirements and guidelines.
- **All submitted entries must be the entrants' original work.**
- Entries must meet privacy policy guidelines and contain appropriate content. Entries containing inappropriate content will be disqualified.
- Failure to meet rules and requirements may result in disqualification. The Partnership reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify ineligible entries; such entries will not be returned.
- Each entry **must** meet category guidelines and requirements. See guidelines section for category requirements.

The Henry Pestka Art & Poetry Contest

Contest Rules & Policies

Original Work Policy

All submitted entries must be the entrant's original work. Parents and educators are encouraged to help their student(s) with the gathering of materials, to encourage critical thinking skills and creativity, and foster ideas, but all ideas and work **must** be original to the student(s). Project entries cannot include plagiarized work. Plagiarism is copying of someone else's thoughts, ideas, expressions, words, artistic expressions, or scientific work without formally acknowledging its source. Plagiarism includes entries that copy words or ideas from someone else without giving credit, the failure to put quotation marks around unmodified content that was copied from an outside source, and the use of photos, graphs, charts, or other images without acknowledging their source.

Privacy Policy & Appropriate Content

Student privacy and safety. All parents/guardians must provide consent forms for students to participate and to release some limited, personally identifiable student information publicly. *Entrants are encouraged to use good judgement about what may be shared publicly, and parents, teachers, and advisors are asked to assist by monitoring identifying personal information shared by students in parts of entries that may be posted publicly (full names, school, social media handles, etc.)* Additionally, entries containing images, video, or stories of people or organizations other than students participating in the contest MUST contain written consent from additional parties and include this consent with their IC entry form.

All entries must contain appropriate content – explicit language, violence, or sexual content are not permitted in entries. Content that is aimed to defame, marginalize, discriminate, demean, or infringe on the human dignity of others, living or deceased, is not permitted.

Judging, Awards & Notification

All entries submitted will be judged using the judging criteria below by a panel of judges organized through The Partnership. Identifying information will be redacted during the judging process to increase impartiality and members of The Partnership with direct or close proximity to student entries, including EGRPS staff and faculty, will not be permitted to judge entries. The ten entries with the highest percentage in each grade will be deemed as finalists for their respective grade. Judging for each grade will occur on the dates as set forth by The Partnership. The judging criteria and percentages used by any judging in connection with The Contest shall be scored and graded using the rubric within this document.

All decisions of the judges are final and binding and not subject to appeal or review. In the event of any ties, to determine the highest percentage finalists, the entry with the highest score in creativity and originality category from among all tying entries will be deemed the finalist. Finalists' entries may be posted on The Contest website at wgvu.org/pestka.

Culminating Event & Prizes

Finalists will be notified on or about March 3, 2023. The top 10 Finalists from each grade will be invited to attend and be recognized at the Henry Pestka Art & Poetry Competition Event (Event)** in April 2023 at a space **generously provided by Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park**. Finalists will be asked to arrange for their projects to be brought to Meijer Gardens two weeks prior to the event to be curated and displayed in a gallery-style format. Please note that eligibility for prizes is based on attendance at the Event – and all Finalists who attend will receive recognition and a gift. The top three finalists from each grade level will additionally qualify to receive a certificate and a cash award: First Place \$150; Second Place \$100; and Third Place \$50 - **generously provided by The Jewish Federation of Grand Rapids, Henry Pestka Holocaust Memorial Endowment Fund**. Prizes/gifts are not redeemable for cash, non-transferable, and non-substitutable, except at the sole discretion of The Partnership. ** The Partnership reserves the option to modify/cancel this event in compliance with state/regional group and event regulations.

Return of Entries

The Contest administrators are not required to return entries. Every effort will be made to help facilitate return of entries to students. The designated person in the Contest Entry Form will be notified via email that the entry is ready for pick up and MUST claim the entry within two weeks. The Partnership reserves the right to dispose of or donate entries not claimed within the designated two-week claim period.

Rights Associated with The Contest

Submission of the Entry Form constitutes permission from the participant's parent/legal guardian for The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership organizations to use the participants' name, likeness, biographical information, and materials contained in the Entry Form, photographs, and any statements or remarks made about The Contest in advertising and promotion without further compensation or permission, except where prohibited by law. All entries, and any copyrights therein, become the sole property of The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership. By entering, entrants' parent/legal guardian agree to abide by the above stated rules and warrant that their child's/ward's entry is their original work and does not infringe upon or violate rights of any third party, and grant to The Partnership the right to edit, publish, promote, and otherwise use their entry materials without permission, notice or compensation. No royalties will be paid at this or any time. By submitting an entry and Entry Form, each participant's parent/legal guardian, on behalf of the participant, agrees to assign all right, title, and interest in and to the entry and Entry Form to The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership and warrants that the participant's parent/legal guardian has the authority to assign such right, title and interest. In the event that any applicable law requires certain formalities to be fulfilled to effectuate such grant of rights, each participant (and parent or guardian) agrees to cooperate with The West Michigan Holocaust Partnership.

Submitting a Project

Submitting your project electronically:

- Submit entry electronically by uploading to our file share site via the link on The Contest page at wgvu.org/pestka.
- Required for each participant: **Completed Entry Form**.
- **Poetry/prose entries:** Upload as a PDF document.
- **Art entries:** Upload photos (maximum of 5, jpeg or png).
- **Deadline** for receipt (time stamp) of entries: **February 10, 2022*, 11:59pm**

* The Partnership reserves the option to extend this deadline due to circumstances impacting our region/state (such as COVID).

Have questions? We're happy to help!

To connect with a WGUV Education Team member, e-mail education@wgvu.org or call 616.331.6666.

The Henry Pestka Art & Poetry Contest

Contest Requirements (Theme: Never Forget)

Art Entries

- Projects should be individual.
- In addition to meeting all Contest Eligibility Rules and Requirements, **each entry must include a completed official Contest Entry Form**, with the required signature of a parent/guardian, consenting to allowing their child to enter, confirming that the entry is original work, and granting certain rights to entry materials.
- An **Artist's Statement** will be required as part of the online entry form.
- Renderings of another's work will be disqualified. Please note that all images, whether computer, artist, or photo generated must be the creation of the student artist.
- Art submission entry forms should be accompanied by photos of the artwork photos (maximum of 5, jpeg or png).
- If selected as a finalist, students will be asked to deliver their project to Meijer Gardens about two weeks prior to the Celebration.
- All Art entries must be a relevant, clear expression within the category and theme. Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.

Formatting

- Regardless of delivery method (digital or hard copy), all entrants must complete the online submission form.
- Art entries must be legibly labeled with entrant's name, grade, and project title on the back.
- Entries must be titled and include the student's name and grade on a title page or at the top of the first page.
- Submissions must be two-dimensional only, on medium no thicker than $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and must not exceed 24' x 36'.
- Artwork must not be matted or framed.
- Fixative spray must be applied to charcoal, pencil, pastel, and chalk art.
- Submissions can include photography and computer-generated images.
- Artists can use charcoal, pencil, pastel, chalk, watercolors, acrylics, or oils.
- Acknowledgement of sources – to protect copyright holders, proper citation of all sources is required. Permission for sources that are not public domain must be obtained in writing from the copyright holder and submitted with entry.

Poetry Entries

- Projects should be individual.
- In addition to meeting all Contest Eligibility Rules and Requirements, **each entry must include a completed official Contest Entry Form**, with the required signature of a parent/guardian, consenting to allowing their child to enter, confirming that the entry is original work, and granting certain rights to entry materials.
- An **Author's Statement** will be required as part of the online entry form.
- All Poetry entries must be a relevant, clear expression within the category and theme. Writing submissions must adhere to the word count requirements. Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.

Formatting

- All entrants must complete the online submission form, and poetry entries must be uploaded as a PDF.
- Entries must be titled and include the student's name and grade on a title page or at the top of the first page.
- Entries must be typed, on one side of the paper, and include page numbers.
- Entries must not include graphics, drawings, or other images. It must be clear that the entry is a poem, and not artwork.
- Poetry content should not include reference to student or school name.
- Entries may be **no more than 30 lines**.

Prose Entries

- Projects should be individual.
- In addition to meeting all Contest Eligibility Rules and Requirements, **each entry must include a completed official Contest Entry Form**, with the required signature of a parent/guardian, consenting to allowing their child to enter, confirming that the entry is original work, and granting certain rights to entry materials.
- An **Author's Statement** will be required as part of the online entry form.
- All Prose entries must be a relevant, clear expression within the category and theme. Writing submissions must adhere to the word count requirements. Entries that do not follow the criteria will be disqualified.

Formatting

- All entrants must complete the online submission form, and prose entries must be uploaded as a PDF.
- Entries must be titled and include the student's name and grade on a title page or at the top of the first page.
- Entries must be typed, on one side of the paper, and include page numbers.
- Entries must not include graphics, drawings, or other images. It must be clear that the entry is a writing entry, and not artwork.
- Prose content should not include reference to student or school name.
- Entries may be **no more than 500 words**, and may include fiction/story, argumentative, or expository writing.

The Henry Pestka Art & Poetry Contest

Contest Rubric

ARTIST/AUTHOR STATEMENT
 Along with the project, all participants must submit an author/artist statement that explains to the judging committee more about the piece. This is an important opportunity for participants to share their passion, choices, and process.

- Summarize the project.
- Describe the process/choices used to create this project.
- Explain how the project aligns with the theme: *Never Forget*.

	1	2	3	4
Form & Guidelines	Project is not complete. No care and effort were put into the work. Missing details and/or what is included is not fitting or appropriate to the chosen style of the piece. Lacking unity or order.	Project is not fully developed. Little care and effort were put into the work. Details not fitting or appropriate to the chosen style of the piece. Little unity and order.	Project is complete. Some care and effort were put into the work. Some attention to details as fitting and appropriate to the chosen style of the piece. Some unity and order.	Project is complete. Obvious care and effort were put into the work. Clear attention to details as fitting and appropriate to the chosen style of the piece. Strong unity and order.
Creativity & Originality	A unique perspective is not evident, and approach seems cliched and /or uninteresting. Project feels like a summary or copy of someone else's perspective, lacking creative enhancements to engage.	A unique perspective is somewhat evident. Approach lacks imagination. Some evidence of original thought, but the project is based on common theme and does not include elements of originality. Some creative enhancements.	Individual voice and unique perspective are evident; a creative and innovative approach grabs the audience. Project is based on an original idea or includes certain elements of originality. Project includes some creative enhancements.	Distinct voice and unique perspective are very evident; a highly creative and innovative approach grabs the audience. Project is based on an original idea. Message is delivered in a unique perspective. Project is expressive, including creative enhancements and engaging elements.
Choices & Technique	Overall project lacks coherence and is difficult to understand. Lack of structure and details create an overgeneralized or vague message. Audience is unmoved by work.	Structure somewhat contributes to meaning. Weak use of appropriate tools lead to a lack of clear tone and meaning. Evokes a minimal response from the audience.	The structure is intentional and elements flow together to enhance the meaning of the message. Uses appropriate tools and details to create tone and meaning. Evokes a moderate response from the audience.	The structure is intentional and elements flow seamlessly together to enhance the meaning of the message. Effectively and skillfully uses correct tools of the medium, unique choices, and sensory details to create tone and meaning. Evokes a strong response from the audience.
Interpretation of Theme <i>Never Forget</i>	Message does not capture nor maintain the reader's attention and does not maintain a focus. Does not show an understanding of the theme. Misses' points and has quite a few misinterpretations.	Message is somewhat engaging but lacks focus. Displays a somewhat limited understanding of the content and theme. May have a few misinterpretations.	Message is engaging and clear. Shows an understanding of the major themes. Demonstrates mastery of content and applies the theme throughout.	Message is compelling, engaging, and very clear. Shows a sophisticated understanding of the themes in the work. Demonstrates mastery of content and applies theme in complex ways.
Overall	Accomplished the purpose of the project partially or indirectly, and little craftsmanship was attempted or demonstrated.	Accomplished the project in an adequate manner. The topic is covered reasonably well, and some craftsmanship is demonstrated.	Accomplished the project in a capable manner. The topic is strongly covered, and clear and successful attempts toward craftsmanship are demonstrated.	Accomplished the purpose of the project, directly and completely, in an exceptional manner. Overall project craftsmanship is impeccable.