



ESSAY COMPETITION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 2015-2016 Entry Guidelines

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage challenges students in grades 6-12 to take personal responsibility to combat hatred, discrimination and intolerance by participating in the 2016 *Stop the Hate @: Youth Speak Out* essay contest.

ABOUT THE MALTZ MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE

The Maltz Museum celebrates culture and identity to encourage connection and promote a greater appreciation of Jewish heritage and the diversity of the human experience. Personal stories of struggle, courage and creativity are brought to life through interactive exhibitions and thought-provoking programs.

WHAT IS AN UPSTANDER?

A person who stands up and speaks out or and takes action in defense of an individual or individuals, to advance a greater good, or to prevent or right an injustice in society.

ABOUT THE ESSAY CONTEST

Stop the Hate@: Youth Speak Out is a yearly essay contest designed to create an appreciation and understanding among people of differing religions, races, cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. By challenging young people to consider the benefits of a more inclusive society, the consequences of intolerance and the role of personal responsibility in effecting change, the contest also reflects Jewish values of responsible citizenship and respect for all humanity.

Each year, the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage gives out 100,000 in scholarships, awards and anti-bias education in recognition of 6-12th grade upstanders in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne counties.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS ALL ENTRIES (Grades 6-12)

We want to know how students have been and can continue to be agents of positive change. We ask these future leaders to honestly and thoughtfully answer the question for their grade level. Students should share what they've learned through their life experiences and explain how they'll apply that knowledge in helping to create a brighter future.

Grades 6-10

ESSAYS DUE DEC. 4, 2015, 11:59pm

In 500 words or less, describe a time when you or someone you know chose silence or inaction over speaking up in a difficult or uncomfortable situation. What was the harm in not doing or saying anything? What did you learn from that experience and how will that knowledge influence your actions in the future?

Grades 11 & 12

ESSAYS DUE JAN. 22, 2016, 11:59pm

In 500 words or less, describe an obstacle you or someone you know has faced in being accepted. What qualities does it take to break down barriers? What have you done and what actions will you take in the future to help create a more inclusive community?

ELIGIBILITY

- The contest is open to all Northeast Ohio grade 6-12 students in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull and Wayne counties.
- Students can attend a public, private, religious, home, online or charter school.

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- Students who entered previous years (with the exception of past scholarship winners) can participate again, but must submit entirely new essays.
- Immediate family members of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage staff and Board of Trustees, The Malrite Company and the Maltz Family Foundation cannot participate.

GENERAL GUIDELINES & RULES

- Essays cannot be fictitious. All entries must include a real-life situation and creative ideas for making the world a more accepting and inclusive place.
- Essays must be original student work and free of plagiarism.
- Essays cannot exceed 500 words.
- Online entry is preferred.
- Mailed entries must be accompanied by the official entry form.
- Only one entry will be accepted per student.
- Group projects are not accepted.
- Entries that are incomplete, submitted after the deadline or do not comply with contest guidelines will not be accepted.
- All entries become the property of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage and will not be returned. Finalists agree to have their photo and essay reprinted online and in a book of essays. They agree their likeness and words may be used for promotion of the contest.
- Finalists must read their essays on stage at the annual Awards Ceremony on Thurs., April 21, 2016 at Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium.
- The Museum reserves the right to cancel, modify or delay the contest.

JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING

Essays will be scored on:

- Responding to the correct question and required components
- Integrating the concept of responsible citizenship
- Originality/creativity
- Potential for any plan of action to effect positive change
- Writing style/presentation

An above average essay:

- Includes a specific story/example that is both personal and universal
- Tells a true story in a moving, dramatic or inspiring way
- Understands and reflects upon the theme of personal responsibility
- Identifies changes and/or an action plan that can be implemented

Scoring entries:

- Each entry is assigned a number. Essays are blind-scored by number only; no student or school names are identified. Do not include student name or school name within the body of your essay. Failure to comply may result in disqualification.
- A minimum of three readers score each essay using a numerical point scale and the criteria outlined above.

Determining winners in grades 6-10:

- Fifteen (15) winners (3 for each grade level) are determined for grades 6-10 by the highest number of points.
- In the event of a tie in the reading period, the Judges score the essays in question to determine which advance to the top 25.

Determining scholarship finalists and winners for grades 11-12:

- Scholarship semi-finalists are determined by the highest number of points.
- Semi-finalist essays are read by a team of judges.
- Each judge will read and score each semi-finalist essay.

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- Essays are scored using a numerical point scale.
- Judges' aggregate scores narrow the field to no more than ten (10) finalists

Because standing up, speaking out and communicating ideas is an important part of being an agent of change, finalists in grades 11-12 must be present at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 21, 2016 to read their essay. Scholarship finalists will be asked to read their essays and will be scored on the quality of their oral presentation.

PRIZES

Grades 11-12

- One (1) Grand Prize: \$40,000 scholarship (up to \$10,000 per year renewable up to 4 years)*
- One (1) First Runner-Up: \$15,000 scholarship (up to \$3,750 per year renewable up to 4 years)*
- One (1) Second Runner-Up: \$10,000 scholarship (up to \$2,500 per year renewable up to 4 years)*
- Seven (7) Honorable Mentions: \$500 cash prize

*Scholarship requirements:

- Scholarship winners may enroll as full-time students at any accredited four-year college/university within or outside of Ohio.
- Scholarship finalists may be required to submit additional information including GPA, ACT/SAT scores.
- Financial need is not a consideration.
- Scholarship winners are required to enroll as full-time students in a course of study leading to a degree in an accredited Pell-eligible, four-year college or university.
- Scholarship winners must complete sufficient course hours each grading period to maintain status as a full-time student as defined by the institution and will be required to submit grades and verification of enrollment on a regular basis.
- Scholarship prize is not transferable. If scholarship winner forfeits the prize before beginning school (accepts another full scholarship, unable to attend college), the prize is held in trust for future winners.
- If scholarship winner drops out or is dismissed from school, remaining funds are held in trust for future winners.
- Scholarships are administered by College Now Cleveland.

Grades 6-10

- One (1) 6th Grade First Prize: \$300
- One (1) 7th Grade First Prize: \$300
- One (1) 8th Grade First Prize: \$300
- One (1) 9th Grade First Prize: \$300
- One (1) 10th Grade First Prize: \$300

All student winners also receive:

- A one-year Maltz Museum Family Membership
- A free field trip to the Maltz Museum for their class

Anti-Bias Awards

Up to \$10,000 to be granted to schools and students specifically for anti-bias education.

Winners are announced at an evening awards ceremony on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at Cleveland Museum of Art's Gartner Auditorium. Families are encouraged to attend the event to see students honored for their achievements.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **ENTRIES ACCEPTED BEGINNING:** 9/14/2015 12:00pm
- **ESSAYS DUE GRADES 6 – 10:** 12/4/2015 11:59pm
- **ESSAYS DUE GRADES 11 - 12:** 1/22/2015 11:59pm
- **AWARDS CEREMONY:** 4/21/2015

HOW TO ENTER

Entries are accepted beginning Monday, September 14, 2015 at 12:00pm.

Entries must be received electronically, by mail or hand-delivered by 11:59pm on the following dates. Late entries will not be accepted:

- Friday, December 4, 2015 for students in grades 6-10
- Friday, January 22, 2016 for students in grades 11-12

To enter electronically:

- Electronic entry is **STRONGLY** preferred.
- Click the "Enter Here" button on maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate to prepare your official entry form and upload your finished essay.

To enter by mail/delivery:

- Electronic entry is preferred
- If students have limited Internet access, entries may be hand-delivered or mailed
- See complete contest rules above for mail-in entry form
- Send entry and completed entry form to:

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage – Stop the Hate

2929 Richmond Road
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

If you have questions, call 216.593.0575 or email stopthehate@mmjh.org.

PRIVACY POLICY

The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage is committed to protecting the privacy of all applicants to the Stop the Hate Essay Contest. The Museum will keep all information submitted confidential, including phone numbers, e-mails, and street addresses. We will not share this information with any other organization without express permission. We do not advertise to children or solicit children for marketing information and we never knowingly release the names of children to third parties.

DISCLAIMER

- The administration of the Contest, including, without limitation, determining the eligibility of a student or essay, selecting of a reader or judge, evaluating any submitted essay, and awarding of the prizes, is within the sole and absolute discretion of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. No student or teacher, or person or organization related thereto, has a right to appeal, contest, dispute or otherwise challenge any aspect of the administration of the Contest, and any decision of the Maltz Museum is final in all respects.
- The Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or delayed entries, whether caused by mail/other delivery systems or human error which may occur in the processing of entries to this contest; or any problems/technical malfunctions of any computer equipment or software by either the applicant or the Maltz Museum.
- All entries become the property of the Maltz Museum, including the right to reproduce the essay or portions thereof in any promotional, reference, research or official business materials without limitation; entries will not be returned.
- The Maltz Museum reserves the right to cancel, modify or delay the Contest.



2016 STUDENT ENTRY FORM

Online entry at maltzmuseum.org/stop-the-hate is *strongly encouraged*. Use this form ONLY if the Internet is not available. Please use ink and type or print. Incorrect, incomplete or illegible information may lead to disqualification.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Full student name _____
first middle initial last

Age _____ Grade in school (6-12) _____ (Please check one) Male _____ Female _____

Home street address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____

Home phone (including area code) _____ Email (if applicable) _____

Parent/guardian name _____

How did you hear about the Contest? _____

SCHOOL/TEACHER INFORMATION

Name of school _____

School district _____

School mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____
Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage or Summit County

Teacher name _____ Teacher email (if applicable) _____

CERTIFICATION/PARENTAL CONSENT

By submitting an entry to the *Stop the Hate®: Youth Speak Out* Essay Contest, I agree to abide by all Contest Rules. I certify that my essay is a true and original account, authored solely by me and that in writing my essay I did not plagiarize or otherwise infringe upon the rights of any third parties or entity, including any copyright. I further understand that all entries become the property of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, including the right to reproduce the essay or portions thereof in any promotional, reference, research or official business materials without limitation; entries will not be returned.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature** _____ Date _____
 (**Required for students under 18 years of age)

Student essayist race/ethnicity information is optional, but can help us plan future programs. If you are comfortable providing this information, please check one:

Asian _____ Black/African-American _____ Caucasian _____ Hispanic _____ Other _____