



ESSAY COMPETITION for Middle and High School Students

\$100,000 in SCHOLARSHIPS and PRIZES 2011-2012 ENTRY GUIDELINES

*After disease, humanity's deadliest scourge has always been hate...hate has killed hundreds of millions.
It knows no season and no limit. It is irrational and it is deadly. It is in us all.
And it will live forever—unless we choose to stop it.*

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 2012 *Stop the Hate: Youth Speak Out!* essay contest.

About the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

The Museum strives to open lines of communication between people of all races and religious backgrounds by focusing on the commonalities, rather than differences, of all who make up the American story. It is a museum of tolerance and diversity and has taken great care to reflect upon the results of intolerance, not just against Jews, but against the weak, powerless, segregated and different in America and throughout the world.

About the Essay Contest

The Stop the Hate! Youth Speak Out! essay contest and scholarship program supports the Museum's mission to build bridges of appreciation, tolerance and understanding of persons of all religions, races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds. It reflects Jewish values of responsible citizenship and respect for all humanity by challenging young people to consider the consequences of intolerance and hatred and the role of personal responsibility in affecting change. By rewarding outstanding essays with college scholarships and other prizes, the contest encourages civic responsibility as an integral part of American life.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Contest Theme: Stop the Hate! Youth Speak Out!

What would you do to fight discrimination? How will you combat hatred and intolerance to become an agent of change? How will you become part of the solution?

The essay must address each of the following components:

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRIES (Grades 9-12)

1. Describe an act of discrimination—have you or someone you know been subjected to discrimination or have you seen or heard of acts of hatred and intolerance that disturbed you?

2. Reflect upon your response—why were you disturbed and what did you feel and/or do about what you experienced, saw or heard?

3. Commit to a plan of action—**Stop the Hate! Youth Speak Out!** What have you done already and/or what will you commit to doing in the future to stop hatred and intolerance and affect change in you, your school and/or community? How will you implement your plan of action?

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTRIES (Grades 6-8)

1. Describe an act of discrimination—have you or someone you know been subjected to discrimination or have you seen or heard of acts of hatred and intolerance that disturbed you?

2. Reflect upon your response—why were you disturbed and what did you feel and/or do about what you experienced, saw or heard?

3. Make the world a better place—Stop the Hate! Youth Speak Out! What do you think you and other kids can do to change things for the better?

Discrimination is defined as any act of prejudice or intolerance perpetrated upon one individual by another; a group against an individual; or one group against another group. For example, essays may respond to discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical, mental or emotional challenges, economic status and/or less specific criteria such as bullying, name-calling, malicious gossiping, or ostracizing someone for unspecified reasons.

ELIGIBILITY:

- The contest is open to all students in grades 6-12 in Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit counties
- Students may attend a public, private, religious, charter school, home-school or on-line classroom
- One entry per student; no group projects
- Students who have entered in previous years, including past student winners (with the exception of scholarship winners), may enter again, but cannot re-submit any essay previously submitted
- Immediate family members of the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, The Malrite Company, The Maltz Family Foundation staff and Board of Directors are ineligible to enter

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

- The essay must address all three components of the contest theme described above
- **The essay must be a true account, not a fictitious story**
- Entries are limited to 500 words; every word of the essay is counted with the exception of any necessary footnotes; DO NOT title your essay
- Essays must be original student work and free of plagiarism; quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly using MLA or similar standards
- Failure to identify non-original material or plagiarism of any kind will result in disqualification
- **DO NOT INCLUDE STUDENT NAME OR SCHOOL NAME IN YOUR ESSAY—FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION**
- **DO NOT** use the real name of any person known to you; use a pseudonym in the first usage, such as “John, not his real name”
- **On-line entry is preferred.** Students with limited Internet access may mail or hand-deliver entries under the following conditions:
 - Entries must be accompanied by the official entry form—page 5 of this packet/available on-line
 - Entries must be typed, double spaced, 12-point type—no handwritten entries accepted
 - Do not use script, italicized, bold-faced type, decorative fonts or colored paper
 - Do not include graphics or photographs
- **Entries that are incomplete, submitted after the deadline or do not comply with contest guidelines will be disqualified**
- 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

9/15/2011

\$100,000 in SCHOLARSHIPS and PRIZES:

All 11th and 12th grade entries are eligible for **SCHOLARSHIP PRIZES** (for qualified educational expenses—tuition, books, fees, room, board)

NEW THIS YEAR—scholarship winners may select the college of their choice within or outside of Ohio

Grand Scholarship Prize

- **\$50,000 scholarship** (up to \$12,500 per year, renewable up to four years)

First Runner-Up

- **\$25,000 scholarship** (up to \$6,250 per year renewable up to four years)

Second Runner-Up

- **\$15,000 scholarship** (up to \$3,750 per year renewable up to four years)

7 Honorable Mentions

- **\$1,000 cash prize**

Grades 6-10 compete for cash prizes—three winners are selected at EACH grade:

- First Prize: \$300
- Second Prize: \$200
- Third Prize: \$100

All Winners receive:

- A one-year Family Membership to the Maltz Museum for each winner
- Books on the topic of discrimination for each winner's school library (one gift per school)
- A free field trip to the Maltz Museum for each winner's class

School/Teacher Recognition

Special recognition will be awarded to the middle school and high school with the highest number of entries

DIRECTIONS FOR ENTERING:

Online entry is preferred. If students have limited access to the Internet, entries may be hand-delivered or mailed. Entries must be received electronically, by mail or hand-delivered by **11:59PM** on the following dates.

Late entries will not be accepted:

Entry Deadlines:

- **Tuesday, December 6, 2011** for students in grades 6-10
- **Tuesday, January 24, 2012** for students in grades 11-12

To enter online:

- Go to stopthehate.maltzmuseum.org and follow the directions to prepare your official on-line entry form and upload your entry
- On-line entry site will be accessible in late September, 2011

To enter by mail/delivery:

- Send or deliver your essay to:
Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage—STH
2929 Richmond Road
Beachwood, Ohio 44122

SCORING AND DETERMINING WINNERS

How Entries Are Scored:

- Each entry is assigned a number; essays are blind-score by number only; no student or school names are identified--**PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE STUDENT NAME OR SCHOOL NAME IN YOUR ESSAY—FAILURE TO COMPLY MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION**
- Three readers (6-10th grade) or four readers (11-12th grade) score each essay using a numerical points scale
- Entries are scored on the three required components of the essay—an above average essay describes a specific act of discrimination that is both personal and universal; tells a true story that is affecting and dramatic; understands and reflects upon the theme of personal responsibility; and identifies changes/action plan that can be implemented

How Grades 6-10 Winners are determined:

- Winners are determined for grades 6-10 by the highest number of points
- 6-10 grade winners and their families will be invited to a special **Awards Ceremony in April 2012** where specific prizes will be announced and students honored for their achievement

How Scholarship Finalists are determined and Winners selected:*

- Scholarship semi-finalists are determined by the highest number of points
- Semi-finalist essays are read by a team of judges—each judge reads/scores all semi-finalist essays
- Essays are scored using a numerical points scale
- Judges' aggregate scores narrow the field to no more than ten finalists
- Scholarship finalists and their families will be invited to a special **Awards Ceremony in April 2012** where specific prizes will be announced and students honored for their achievement
- Communicating your ideas is an important part of being an agent of change—finalists for scholarship prizes must be present at the Awards Ceremony where will read their essay and be scored on the quality of their oral presentation
- The Grand Prize Scholarship Winner, First and Second Runner-Up are determined by a combination of scores received for their essay and oral presentation, with the essay score having the most weight in determining the outcome

*SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Scholarship finalists are 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 (selects an out of state school, accepts another full scholarship, unable to attend college)—prize is held in trust for future winners
- If scholarship winner transfers to an out of state school, drops out or is dismissed from school, remaining funds are held in trust for future winners
- Scholarships are administered by Cleveland Scholarship Programs

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.

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.



OFFICE USE ONLY

[Empty box for office use]

PLEASE ENTER ONLINE at stopthehate.maltzmuseum.org
Use this form only if the Internet is not easily available

2012 STUDENT ENTRY FORM (type or print) All information is required. Please use ink; incorrect, incomplete or illegible information may lead to disqualification.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade in school: _____ Please check one: Male _____ Female _____

Race/Ethnicity is optional, but will help us plan future programs; please check one:

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

Home Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____ County: _____

Home Phone _____ Email: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

How did you hear about the contest? _____

SCHOOL/TEACHER INFORMATION

Name of School: _____

School District: _____

School Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____

Teacher Name _____ Teacher Email _____

CERTIFICATION/PARENTAL CONSENT:

By submitting an entry in 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 rights. 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.

Signature of Student _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Required for students under 18 years of age