ESSAY COMPETITION FOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
2019-2020 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 2019-2020 Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out essay contest.

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 questions posed in the prompt below. 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.

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 and/or 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.

2019-2020 ESSAY PROMPT
This year we honor the memory and spirit of maestro Leonard Bernstein, one of the greatest artists of the 20th century, whose life and legacy is explored in the Maltz Museum's special exhibition, Leonard Bernstein: The Power of Music. When speaking about why he wrote music he famously said:

This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more devotedly than ever before.

In 500 words or less, think about your own life. Have you witnessed or experienced acts of injustice, racism, bigotry, or discrimination? How were you impacted by what you experienced, saw or heard? What did you do, or what will you do, in response to these circumstances in order to create justice and positive change in your community?
IMPORTANT DATES

- **ENTRIES ACCEPTED BEGINNING:** Wednesday, September 11, 2019, 6:00pm
- **ESSAYS DUE GRADES 6 – 10:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 11:59pm
- **ESSAYS DUE GRADES 11 - 12:** Monday, January 20, 2020, 11:59pm
- **AWARDS CEREMONY:** Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall

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, 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 permitted.
- 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 that their likeness and words may be used for promotion of the contest.
- Finalists must appear on stage in front of an audience at an Awards Ceremony on **Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall.** 11-12th grade finalists are required to read their entries in front of an audience.

JUDGING CRITERIA AND SCORING

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 below.

Essays will be scored on:
- Responding to the required components
- Integrating the concepts 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
- Shows understanding of and reflection on the theme of personal responsibility
- Identifies changes and/or an action plan that can be implemented

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:

- Up to twenty-five (25) semi-finalists with the highest number of points are selected for further review.
- Semifinalist essays are read by a team of judges.
- Each judge will read and score each semifinalist essay.
- 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 must be present at the Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 2, 2020. 11-12th grade scholarship finalists must read their essays and will be scored on the quality of their oral presentation.

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, or charter school. They can also be home-schooled or enrolled in an online classroom.
- 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 its Board of Trustees, The Malrite Company, or the Maltz Family Foundation are ineligible to enter.

STUDENT ESSAYIST PRIZES

Grades 11-12

- Grand Prize: $40,000 scholarship (up to $10,000 per year, renewable up to 4 years)*
- First Runner-Up: $15,000 scholarship (up to $3,750 per year, renewable up to 4 years)*
- Second Runner-Up: $10,000 scholarship (up to $2,500 per year, renewable up to 4 years)*
- Third Runner-Up: $5,000 scholarship (up to $2,500 per year, renewable up to 2 years)*
- 6 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 and 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, becomes unable to attend college), the prize is held in trust for future winners.
- If a 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

- 6th Grade $400 First Prize
- 7th Grade $400 First Prize
- 8th Grade $400 First Prize
- 9th Grade $400 First Prize
- 10th Grade $400 First Prize

All student winners also receive:

- A one-year Maltz Museum Family Membership
- Free admission for a field trip to the Maltz Museum for their class
Anti-Bias Education School Awards
Six schools will be eligible to win up to $5,000 for their schools, to be used specifically toward anti-bias education. The Six (6) will be:

- The one (1) school of the Youth Speak Out Grand Prize Winner
- The one (1) school with the highest percentage of Youth Speak Out student entries
- The two (2) high schools of the first and second place Youth Sing Out performances
- The two (2) middle schools of the first and second place Youth Sing Out performances

Winners are announced at an evening Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at Reinberger Chamber Hall at Severance Hall. Families are encouraged to attend the event to see students honored for their achievements.

HOW TO ENTER

Entries are accepted beginning Wednesday, September 11, 2019. Entries must be received electronically or postmarked by 11:59pm on the following dates. Late entries will not be accepted:

- Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 11:59pm for students in grades 6-10
- Wednesday, January 20, 2020, 11:59pm 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 the last page of this document for mail-in entry
- 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 Stop the Hate® participants. The Museum will keep all information submitted confidential, including phone numbers, emails, 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 a reader or judge, evaluating any submitted essay, and awarding 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.
2019-2020 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. Please send to: Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage – Stop The Hate, 2929 Richmond Road, Beachwood, OH 44122

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 _________________________________________

Teacher name _________________________________ Teacher email (if applicable) _______________________________

CERTIFICATION/PARENTAL CONSENT

By submitting an entry to the Stop the Hate® Youth Speak Out, 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)

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