



THE 2017 FACING HISTORY TOGETHER STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

HOW DOES IT WORK?

This contest invites students to reflect on who or what has influenced how they think about their roles and responsibilities as engaged members of their communities. With the opportunity to reflect, express, and organize their thoughts through the written word, students can prepare themselves to be caring and engaged global citizens.

The contest is open to students in the US, Canada (excluding Quebec), and United Kingdom who are 13 years or older. Responses are to be submitted in 500-word essays. Facing History will select finalists whose essays will be posted on Facing History's website; public voting will then help select the winners.

With the generous support of Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation's Holocaust Remembrance Project, Facing History is excited to offer more than \$25,000 in scholarships and awards to students and their educators.

- Three **\$5,000 (£4,000) Upstander Scholarships** will be awarded to students in 7th–12th grade (years 9–13 in the UK) and their teacher will also receive a **\$500 (£400) Classroom Award**. At least one **\$5,000 (£4,000) Upstander Scholarship** will be designated for a graduating senior.
- Seven **\$1,000 (£800) Upstander Awards** will also be awarded to students in 7th–12th grade (years 9–13 in the UK) and their teacher will also receive a **\$250 (£200) Classroom Award**.

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

This essay contest will officially open for submissions at contest.facinghistory.org/choices on **Wednesday, March 1, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. EST** and close on **Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at 9:00 p.m. EST**. Finalists will be revealed for public voting to help select the winners no later than **Wednesday, April 12, 2017**; public voting will close on **Friday, April 21, 2017, at 9:00 p.m. EST**. Overall winners of the contest will be announced on or around **Monday, May 1, 2017**.

HOW WILL ESSAYS BE JUDGED?

Each submission must respond to the writing prompt in no more than 500 words and must demonstrate thoughtful reflection on how students have applied what they have learned to how they

wish to participate in their world. Judges will be looking for originality and a strong personal voice in each essay. The most effective essays will include personal examples and insights.

All work must be original and unpublished. In addition, judges will consider grammar, organization, syntax, and clarity of content and ideas.

WHAT IS THE PROMPT?

Facing History and Ourselves works to create a society of thoughtful citizens who think deeply about the way they live as they make choices in their local communities and confront issues of global concern. We hope that students will believe that their choices do matter and will feel compelled to think carefully about the decisions they make, realizing that their choices will ultimately shape the world.

Elie Wiesel (1928–2016), the Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, once spoke of the importance of learning about people who were rescuers during the Holocaust. He said, “Let us not forget, after all, that there is always a moment when the moral choice is made. Often because of one story or one book or one person, we are able to make a different choice, a choice for humanity, for life.”

Please write an essay responding to Wiesel’s quote in 500 words or less. What story, book, or person has influenced your thinking about ethical decision making? What has it taught you about how you can participate as a caring, thoughtful citizen in the world around you?

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- The contest is open to students in the United States, Canada (excluding Quebec), and the United Kingdom.
- All participants must be 13 years or older.
- All participants must list valid contact information for their teacher as part of the contest submission form and receive parent/guardian permission to participate.

Read the complete official rules at contest.facinghistory.org/choices/rules. *Please note that slightly different rules apply for participants in the UK; the UK rules can be found below the US and Canada rules.*

WHAT ARE THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

Essay submissions are limited to 500 words and must be copied and pasted into the form field on the submission page. Students are required to submit their contact information, as well as valid contact information for their teacher, and receive parent/guardian permission to participate.

WHERE CAN I FIND EDUCATOR RESOURCES?

Looking for ways to bring this contest to your classroom? Explore these [ready-to-use lesson plans](#) that will help engage your students with the prompt and get them ready to write. The lessons can be found at info.facinghistory.org/choices-educator.

WHO IS THE CONTEST & SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTER?

This year’s contest and scholarship supporter is Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation’s Holocaust Remembrance Project. For over 20 years, the Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation’s Holocaust Remembrance Project has encouraged the study of the Holocaust and how this watershed moment in human history relates to our world today. As part of this initiative, the Foundation is generously supporting Facing History’s 2017 Student Essay Contest, which will encourage students to reflect

upon the Holocaust as they examine the role of moral courage in today's society. In addition to the Foundation's financial support of the essay contest and its student scholarships and teacher awards, individual employees of the law firm of Holland & Knight will serve as essay reviewers.

To view the complete contest rules, please visit: contest.facinghistory.org/choices/rules
Questions? Contact the Facing History team at contest@facinghistory.org.