

Rubric for Essays (Informative or Persuasive)

Purpose: Evaluate research, analysis, and argumentation.

Criteria	Exceptional (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Thesis/Focus	Clear, compelling thesis directly addressing the prompt.	Clear thesis addressing the prompt.	Thesis is unclear or only partially addresses the prompt.	No clear thesis or focus.
Evidence & Support	Extensive, well-researched evidence supports all claims.	Sufficient evidence supports most claims.	Limited or inconsistent use of evidence.	Little to no evidence provided.
Historical Accuracy	Facts are accurate and thoughtfully integrated.	Mostly accurate facts with minor errors.	Some inaccuracies or lack of depth.	Major inaccuracies or minimal historical content.
Organization	Logical, cohesive structure with smooth transitions.	Logical structure with minor lapses in flow.	Organization is inconsistent or unclear.	Disorganized and difficult to follow.
Analysis/Insight	Offers deep, original insights and connections.	Some thoughtful analysis and connections.	Analysis is superficial or lacks depth.	Minimal analysis or reflection.
Engagement	Engages and educates the reader powerfully.	Holds the reader's interest throughout.	Partially engaging or inconsistent tone.	Lacks engagement or interest.

In order to be considered for judging, an artist statement must be completed on the entry form.

Entry # _____

Total Points: _____/24

Judge's comments:

Rubric for Creative Writing (Poetry, Fiction, or Memoir)

Purpose: Evaluate creativity, emotional impact, and narrative style.

Criteria	Exceptional (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Theme/Message	Strong, clear connection to Holocaust themes.	Clear connection to Holocaust themes.	Connection to themes is implied or unclear.	Weak or no connection to Holocaust themes.
Creativity	Highly original and imaginative; unique perspective.	Some originality and imaginative elements.	Limited originality; relies on familiar ideas.	Lacks creativity or originality.
Emotional Impact	Deeply moving and impactful; stirs strong emotions.	Evokes some emotion and thoughtfulness.	Limited emotional resonance.	Fails to evoke emotion or engagement.
Character/Voice	Strong, authentic voice and character development.	Clear voice and some character development.	Voice is inconsistent or lacks authenticity.	Weak or no sense of voice or character.
Historical Accuracy	Facts are accurate and thoughtfully integrated.	Mostly accurate facts with minor errors.	Some inaccuracies or lack of depth.	Major inaccuracies or minimal historical content.
Language/Imagery	Rich, vivid language enhances the piece.	Descriptive language supports the narrative.	Limited or clichéd imagery.	Simple or ineffective language.

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Entry # _____

Total Points: _____/24

Judge's comments:

Rubric for Film

Purpose: Evaluate storytelling, technical execution, and emotional impact.

Criteria	Exceptional (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Theme/Message	Strong, clear connection to Holocaust themes; powerful message.	Clear connection to themes with a coherent message.	Connection to themes is implied or unclear.	Weak or no connection to Holocaust themes.
Historical Accuracy	Facts are accurate and thoughtfully integrated.	Mostly accurate facts with minor errors.	Some inaccuracies or lack of depth.	Major inaccuracies or minimal historical content.
Cinematography	Creative, professional camera work enhances storytelling.	Good camera work with minor inconsistencies.	Basic camera work with limited creativity.	Poor or distracting cinematography.
Editing	Seamless transitions; pacing enhances the film's impact.	Smooth editing with minor issues in pacing.	Editing is uneven or detracts from the story.	Poor editing disrupts flow or clarity.
Sound & Music	Exceptional use of sound/music to enhance mood and theme.	Effective sound/music with minor issues.	Sound/music is inconsistent or distracting.	Poor sound quality or inappropriate music.
Emotional Impact	Deeply moving; evokes strong emotions and reflection.	Evokes some emotional engagement.	Limited emotional resonance.	Fails to evoke emotion or engagement.

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Total Points: _____/24

Judge's comments:

Rubric for 2D Art (Drawing, Painting, Digital Art, etc.)

Purpose: Evaluate artistic skill, creativity, and thematic expression.

Criteria	Exceptional (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Theme/Message	Strong, clear connection to Holocaust themes; thought-provoking.	Clear connection to themes with some depth.	Connection to themes is vague or unclear.	Weak or no connection to Holocaust themes.
Composition	Balanced, visually striking; elements work harmoniously.	Strong composition with minor issues.	Composition is inconsistent or lacks focus.	Disorganized or poorly composed.
Technical Skill	Highly skilled, precise use of tools and techniques.	Competent skill with minor technical flaws.	Basic skill; some technical challenges.	Minimal skill or effort evident.
Creativity	Unique, imaginative approach; original perspective.	Some creativity and original ideas.	Limited creativity; ideas feel familiar.	Lacks creativity or originality.
Use of Color/Value	Masterful use of color, shading, and contrast.	Effective use of color and contrast with minor flaws.	Basic use of color; lacks depth or contrast.	Poor use of color or value; lacks impact.
Historical Accuracy	Facts are accurate and thoughtfully integrated.	Mostly accurate facts with minor errors.	Some inaccuracies or lack of depth.	Major inaccuracies or minimal historical content.

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Entry # _____

Total Points: _____/24

Judge's comments:

Rubric for 3D Art (Sculpture, Installation, etc.)

Purpose: Evaluate craftsmanship, innovation, and thematic expression.

Criteria	Exceptional (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Theme/Message	Strong, clear connection to Holocaust themes; powerful message.	Clear connection to themes with a coherent message.	Connection to themes is vague or unclear.	Weak or no connection to Holocaust themes.
Design & Form	Masterful design; form enhances the overall impact.	Strong design with minor inconsistencies.	Basic design; lacks refinement or cohesion.	Poorly designed or disjointed form.
Craftsmanship	High attention to detail; materials expertly used.	Careful craftsmanship with minor flaws.	Craftsmanship is inconsistent or basic.	Poor craftsmanship; lacks effort or care.
Creativity	Unique, innovative approach to the theme.	Some originality and thoughtful execution.	Limited creativity; ideas feel familiar.	Lacks creativity or originality.
Use of Materials	Exceptional, innovative use of materials.	Effective use of materials with minor issues.	Basic use of materials; lacks innovation.	Poor or ineffective use of materials.
Historical Accuracy	Facts are accurate and thoughtfully integrated.	Mostly accurate facts with minor errors.	Some inaccuracies or lack of depth.	Major inaccuracies or minimal historical content.

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Entry # _____

Total Points: _____/24

Judge's comments: