

# The Art & Writing Competition

Open to 7–12th grade students in Michigan

Any student may respond to any of our inspirations, or multiple inspirations

**Entry Deadline**  
Friday, March 24, 2023

**Submission Categories**  
Poetry | Fiction Prose  
2D Art | 3D Art | Graphic Art

Rules, guidelines, and other information can be found at [www.holocaustcenter.org/competition2023](http://www.holocaustcenter.org/competition2023)

Questions? Email [competition@holocaustcenter.org](mailto:competition@holocaustcenter.org)

**THE Zekelman  
HOLOCAUST  
CENTER**

## 2023 Theme: Art as Resistance

The Holocaust was the destruction of the Jews of Europe by the Nazi government of Germany and their collaborators from 1933–1945. The Nazis used social isolation, indiscriminate violence, ghettoization, and concentration camps to destroy the Jews physically and emotionally. The Nazis wanted to take away their victims' sense of their own humanity, to make them believe that their lives had no value, and to break their spirits so that they would not **resist** – fight back against their own destruction.

In spite of the attempted dehumanization, Jewish people found many different ways to **resist**. Some fought in armed uprisings, while others resisted through art and culture. Many people, such as Anne Frank and Elie Wiesel, used their writing to record their experiences during and after the war so that the world would know what happened. Others, like Erich Lichtblau-Leskly, used art to depict their daily experiences under oppression.



Anne Frank recorded her thoughts, feelings, and experiences in diaries and short stories for two years while hiding in Amsterdam. Anne began her diary as a personal account, but she started to edit the diary in the hopes of publishing it after the war, as testimony of what happened to her family in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Although Anne did not live to see her diary published, her father made sure that Anne's story was told and that people around the world would learn what the Nazis and their collaborators had done. By recording her experiences, **Anne's diary was a form of resistance.**

After the war, Elie Wiesel wrote about his experiences in the Holocaust in a series of memoirs. He spent his life writing and teaching literature and philosophy as a professor, spreading messages of tolerance and respect for human life. He received The Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for his efforts. Through his retelling of his experiences, **Elie resisted with his writing.**

Erich Lichtblau-Leskly illustrated cartoons of the everyday lives of Jews in the Theresienstadt ghetto, where he was incarcerated. After reprisals against other artists in the ghettos, he cut up and hid his pieces to protect himself. His wife, Else, dug up the pieces after liberation, and 30 years later, Erich recreated all of the works from scratch. In depicting the conditions in the ghetto with critique and humor, **Erich resisted with his art.**

*In your submission and statement of purpose, please respond to the following questions:*

- What does "art as resistance" mean to you? How do art and writing provide opportunities for cultural resistance?
- What messages of resistance and lessons of the Holocaust will you convey in your art and writing?
- How is your piece inspired by the works of Anne Frank, Elie Wiesel, and/or Erich Lichtblau-Leskly?

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