

## Essay Application Form

Form must be printed or typed  
and stapled to original copy of essay

Contestant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Essay \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count (# of words in your essay) \_\_\_\_\_

School/organization: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher/Coordinator Name & Contact information \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Have you left anything blank? Please Go Back.  
The signatures below acknowledge the following:**

1. I understand the contest rules and regulations.
2. This work is original, and only one submission has been made.
3. ADL reserves the right to reproduce, publish, and/or exhibit all submissions.
4. I have completed and attached the required reflection sheet.

### Signatures

Contestant Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent /Teacher/Coordinator Signature & Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Background:

During the Holocaust, it is estimated that eleven million people were killed by the Nazis and their collaborators. Fortunately there were Holocaust survivors. Many survivors were rescued by “ordinary” people who took extraordinary risk. A sense of altruism or moral courage might explain the unselfish behavior of the rescuers. Learn about some allies by researching their stories. Carl Lutz, Chiune-Sempo Sugihara, Raoul Wallenberg, Jan Karski, and Miep Gies, are a few whose stories can be read by going to:

[www.yadvashem.org.il/righteous/index\\_righteous.html](http://www.yadvashem.org.il/righteous/index_righteous.html)

**Begin answering the questions below as they pertain to the individuals seen on the Yad Vashem website. This will become your reflection sheet.**

1. Write your own definition of moral courage.
2. Given the testimonials and stories you have just read, what aspect of their story is an inspiration to you? Why?
3. In what ways might you make a difference in your community and how can you apply the lessons from the readings?

Next, research an individual who exhibited moral courage either during the Holocaust or from another historic or contemporary era. There are numerous examples of ordinary individuals who have shown fortitude and acted altruistically to respond in a morally courageous manner. Past winners have written about Herman Boone, Lucy Burns, Benazir Bhutto, Varian Fry, Miep Geis, Abraham Lincoln, Branche Rickey, Paul Rusesabagina, and Oscar Schindler.

To read past winning essays, go to [www.echoesandreflections.org/..news\\_and\\_events/essay\\_contests.asp](http://www.echoesandreflections.org/..news_and_events/essay_contests.asp)

## Essay:

**Find a historical or contemporary individual of your choosing who exemplifies altruism or moral courage. Research the individual and write an essay in which you discuss the moral courage exhibited. Then, explore how you already, or can in the future, exhibit some of the individual’s qualities.**

## Contest Rules & Guidelines:

1. Participants must be in grades 8-12.
2. Essay must be 750-1000 words.
3. **Dedicate a minimum of 25% to explain your connection to the altruistic behavior demonstrated by the subject.**
4. Title, type and double-space your essay.
5. Submit a bibliography of citations from a minimum of two sources; only one may be from the internet.
6. Staple Application Form and **Reflection Sheet** to original copy of your Essay. Provide a second copy of your Essay stapled separately.
7. DO NOT WRITE your name or school anywhere on the essay. The application form will include this information.

## Disqualifiers:

- Incomplete entry form
- Word Count exceeded
- Bibliographic requirements not met
- Using *Wikipedia* as a source
- Multiple entries per student
- Plagiarism

**The following websites provide valuable information:**

- **Mapping the Holocaust** (Animated Map) [www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/maps/](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/maps/)
- **The History of the Holocaust** [www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/index.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005143](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/index.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005143)
- **Rescuers and Non-Jewish Resistance**