



Mira Kimmelman 'Learning from the Holocaust' Contest 2025

High School Essay and Visual Arts Contests

The High School Essay and Visual Arts Contests are open to students who are in Grades 9-12 in Tennessee. This includes students in public, private, charter, voucher, and homeschools.

While this contest is designed for Tennessee students, we will also welcome valid out-of-state entries that meet the criteria for each category. Out-of-state entries will be judged according to the criteria set for each contest.

High School Essay Contest

All submissions must follow these requirements to be considered eligible for entry:

- 1) Reading of the book, *Echoes from the Holocaust: A Memoir* by Mira Ryczke Kimmelman; and/or, watching three of the filmed interviews found on the Mira Kimmelman Tolerance Fund: <https://www.tolerance.fund/mira> Complimentary copies of Ms. Kimmelman's book, *Echoes from the Holocaust* can be obtained by emailing the staff of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission at tnholcom@tnholcom.org
- 2) High School students should write a **4-6 page**, formal essay in which they respond to Ms. Kimmelman's story, including the prompt below, and answer the following question: How did Mira Kimmelman's experiences in the Holocaust affect her world view, and how can you embody her message when faced with contemporary instances of injustice?

Prompt:

In spite of all the evil and cruel experiences, I also saw the goodness of people. Friends and relatives were saved by Poles, Germans, French, and Dutch. Some of the rescuers were uneducated peasants, some were educated people, but all listened to their hearts even when they put themselves in danger. They risked their lives to save Jews from a certain death. These selfless and courageous people, regardless of nationality or religion, were the unsung heroes of the Holocaust years.

The tragic facts cannot be denied. This memoir has been written amidst many tears, sleepless nights, and agonizing moments. It is a memorial to those who were killed. My children and their children will become the guardians of these memories. If future

generations fail to protect the truth, it vanishes. By keeping memories alive, by fighting those who deny the Holocaust, we fulfill the duty to remember.

*The Holocaust is a lesson in human (and inhuman) history that took place because of hate, bigotry, indifference- all characteristics that know no bounds. These traits spread like wildfire. If we remain indifferent to human suffering, it can happen again; it can happen here, and who knows who the next victims will be? Only by remembering the bitter lesson of Hitler's legacy can we hope it will never be repeated. Teach it, tell it, read it. (Mira Kimmelman, *Echoes from the Holocaust*).*

Essays should reflect the message of Mira Kimmelman's story and explain if the students read the book or watched the interviews. Essays will be checked for originality. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will result in the dismissal of the entry. Student papers should also be cited using APA or MLA citation styles. Essays should be typed in 12 point, standard font (Ex: Times New Roman, Arial, Courier), with 1-inch page margins.

- 3) Entries must also include a completed application.
- 4) Student essay entries must include the name of their teacher, school, and grade.
- 5) All projects should be submitted to the Tennessee Holocaust Commission's email, tnholcom@tnholcom.org. Please type: "ATTN: Kimmelman Contest", and the level/name of the contest you are entering in in the subject line of the emailed submission. (Ex: "ATTN: Kimmelman Contest, HS Essay").
- 6) Deadline for entries to the High School Essay Contest is: **June 1, 2025.**

The winner of the High School Essay contest receives a prize of \$750, with the first runner up receiving \$500 and the second runner up receiving \$250.

High School Visual Arts Contest

All submissions must follow these requirements to be considered eligible for entry:

- 1) Reading of the book, *Echoes from the Holocaust: A Memoir* by Mira Ryczke Kimmelman; and/or, watching three of the filmed interviews found on the Mira Kimmelman Tolerance Fund: <https://www.tolerance.fund/mira> Complimentary copies of Ms. Kimmelman's book, *Echoes from the Holocaust* can be obtained by emailing the staff of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission at tnholcom@tnholcom.org
- 2) Visual arts projects should reflect the message of Mira Kimmelman's story and explain if the students read the book or watched the interviews. It should reflect on the major events and challenges faced by Ms. Kimmelman, her message, and demonstrate how Ms. Kimmelman's story connects to the student's life today. Entries should also include a **1-2 page**, written explanation of the project; as well as images of the visual arts project. Examples of appropriate visual arts entries include: original student paintings/sketches/digital art, original student music or dance, a new website, table top exhibit, performance with accompanying script, a webquest, a monument design, a series of commemorative historical markers, etc. All projects will be checked for originality and content. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and will result in the dismissal of the entry. Student papers should also be cited using APA or MLA citation styles.

- 3) Visual arts projects may be submitted by individual students, or by a small group. Winning entries submitted by groups will have the monetary award divided equally among the group participants.
- 4) Visual Arts projects must include the name of the student's teacher, school, and grade.
- 5) All Visual arts projects must be submitted with a completed application. All applicants must submit a completed application.
- 6) All projects should be submitted to the Tennessee Holocaust Commission's email, tnholcom@tnholcom.org. Please type: "ATTN: Kimmelman Contest", and the level/name of the contest you are entering in in the subject line of the emailed submission. (Ex: "ATTN: Kimmelman Contest, HS Visual Arts").
- 7) The deadline for the High School Visual Arts Contest is **June 1, 2025**.

The winner of the High School Visual Arts contest receives a prize of \$750, with the first runner up receiving \$500 and the second runner up receiving \$250.

- **Educators will receive a \$5.00 Starbucks gift card for each *valid student entry* from their class**