

2022-2023 ATT Pogrund Family Essay Contest Rules

1. Essay Content: Select one of the topics listed below:

- a. Research a question about a Judaic topic that interests you. Essay should include the answer as well as its rationale.
 - e.g.: Does *Hashem* expect us to work for success or to rely on him alone?
- b. Research a historical/current Jewish personality or event. From that research, explain how it applies to your Jewish values and/or contemporary Jewish life. (Essay should include two parts, a brief summary of what has been researched and its relationship to you or modern life in general.)
 - e.g.: Write a brief summary (1 - 2 paragraphs) of the Spanish Expulsion and then explain its impact on our lives today.
- c. Create a poem, play, speech, memoir, personal essay, journal, diary, short story, letter or other type of creative writing on a Jewish theme, idea, personality, event, or holiday. Be sure to include details, facts, customs, etc. to illustrate your knowledge of the subject.
 - e.g.: Write a short story with its characters being Jewish ritual objects representing different Jewish holidays
 - e.g.: Write a diary as a shofar recording its travels through Jewish history
- d. Explain a *tefilah* (prayer) from the *Siddur* and its special meaning to you and the role it plays in your life.
 - e.g.: *Shema*, *Modeh Ani*, and what I think about when I recite it
- e. Explain a difficult passage from *Tanach*. Present a minimum of two resolutions to the problem.
 - e.g.: How did the Jews make an *Eigel* (Golden Calf) just 40 days after *Har Sinai*?
- f. Describe a modern problem and show how our sacred texts deal with the problem.
 - e.g.: The Sanctity of Human Life; Anti-Semitism; The Sanctity of Marriage; Environment; Social Justice

2. Length of essay: 500 word maximum

3. **All essay submissions must include an essay title, first name, last name, home address (city, state, zip, & apartment # when applicable), email address (student or parent), grade, and school in order to be eligible.**

4. **If submissions are hand-written: essays must be legible, done in blue/black ink, written on one side of the paper.**

5. **Deadline: Wednesday, February 8, 2023, by 5:00 p.m.**

6. Prizes: \$50.00 per winner

7. Essays may be submitted by:

- **Mail:** ATT – Pogrund Family Essay Contest
3531 Madison Street
Skokie, IL 60076
- **Email:** pogrundessayart@att.org
- **Online:** Go to <https://www.att.org/essay-contest/>

8. **FOR TEACHERS Only: If done as a class assignment, please be sure to:**

- Include the Pogrund Family Essay **CLASS COVER SHEET** with class submissions. To download sheet visit: <https://www.att.org/essay-contest/>
- Have each student include an essay title, his/her first and last name, home address (city, state, zip and apartment # when applicable), email address (student or parent), grade, and school on all pages of his/her submission.
- If submissions are hand-written: must be legible, done in blue/black ink, written on only one side of the paper.

9. **Pogrund Family Essays will be judged on these criteria:**

- **Following directions – Be sure to include your heading and an essay title.**
- Content/research/originality and creativity
- Mechanics (grammar, spelling, etc.)

10. All submitted essays are the property of the ATT and may be published in an ATT publication. Please retain a copy of your submission for your records. Winners may be requested to resubmit their essays electronically.