



## 2024-2025 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. Explain how a major Jewish event influences your life.
  - e.g.: *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, *Matan Torah*, the Holocaust, the Spanish Inquisition
- 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.: Sanctity of Human Life; Anti-Semitism; Sanctity of Marriage; Environment; Social Justice

### 2. Length of essay: 150 - 500 words

### 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, January 15, 2025, by 5:00 p.m.

### 6. Prizes: \$50.00 per winner (In 2023-2024, 39 ATT students were Pogrund Family Essay winners!)

### 7. Essays may be submitted by:

- **Mail:** ATT – Pogrund Family Essay Contest  
3531 Madison Street  
Skokie, IL 60076
- **Email:** [pogrundessayart@att.org](mailto: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.