



Better Together Writing Contest Rules

Legacy Heritage Programming VI LLC invites all student participants in our Better Together™ program to compete in our Better 2 Write essay-writing contest. Students are encouraged to submit an essay, article, or short story (describing actual events – not fiction) (a “Writing Submission”) describing and reflecting upon their intergenerational experiences.

Prizes will be awarded to the student winner at each organization (the "Student Prize"); and the organizations of the national student winners.

ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTEST PRIZES

To be eligible for both categories of contest prizes, participating schools/organizations must receive Writing Submissions that satisfy the criteria (see below) from at least 10 student participants. Schools with 20+ student participants must receive Writing Submissions from at least 50% of the student participants.

Organizations will select the best Writing Submission from its students without input from the Foundation. Organizations may only notify the Foundation of one winning Writing Submission to receive the Student Prize and cannot change or substitute the winner after the original entry. The Foundation will award the Student Prize to the winner identified by the Organization. Please note that the Student Prize is non-transferrable, even in the event that the winner elects not to utilize the prize.

Organizations must submit all Writing Submissions received from students (not only the winning Writing Submission that received the Student Prize) to the Foundation. The Foundation shall then enter all of the winning Writing Submissions (i.e. those that received the Student Prize) from all Organizations into the contest for the Organization Prize. Out of these, the Foundation will select the top three Writing Submissions in each of three categories on an anonymous basis: high school, middle school, and college. The Organization Prize will be awarded to the Organizations from which the authors of the selected Writing Submissions originated.

In choosing the top three Writing Submissions as part of the Organization Prize, the Foundation will factor in originality, writing style, and the level to which the work reflects a relationship between the student and senior citizen. Organizations cannot switch versions of the Writing Submissions; once submitted, no changes will be accepted. Pictures or graphics will not be seen by the judges in selecting the Organization Prize.

The Foundation reserves the right to reduce the number of awards it distributes if less than 2/3 of the Organizations participate in the Writing Contest in each category.

CRITERIA FOR WRITING SUBMISSIONS

For a Writing Submission to be eligible for a prize, it must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Topic of the essay, short story, or article must include senior citizens, the elderly, growing old, or intergenerational experiences. The writing submission must describe actual events (i.e. not be a work of fiction).
- May be based on the students' participation in Better Together or experiences with the elderly independent of the program; however,

essays may NOT be about students' experiences with their grandparents or family members.

- Authors must be in grades 5-8 (middle school) or grades 9-12 (high school), or currently attending an undergraduate program at a university, and must have participated in at least 70% of the Better Together program events coordinated by the organization.
- Must reflect student work, although faculty or parents may assist with editing.

FORMAT OF WRITING SUBMISSION:

- Must be saved as a Word document.
- Must be between 2 and 4 pages, with 2.0 line spacing, 12-point font, and 1 inch margins.

CONTEST PRIZES AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

Each Organization that satisfies the requirements for participation in the contest will identify the best Writing Submission from among the participants in the Better Together program from that Organization.

The Foundation will pay up to 50% of the cost of (i) a satisfactory Jewish summer camp program, with a maximum award of \$5,000 or (ii) satisfactory semester/gap-year program in Israel, with a maximum award of \$8,000, for the benefit of the winning author.

The Organization will submit the Winner Form to notify the Foundation of the name of the winner and the program that the winner desires to attend as soon as possible. If the winner does not know which program he/she would like to attend, the Organization may notify the Foundation of the winner's preference at a later date, as long as the prize is used within three years of winning the contest.

The Student Prize will only be awarded for “satisfactory programs.” The Foundation maintains a list of camps, Israel summer programs, Israel semester programs, and gap-year programs that have sufficient Jewish educational content so as to be automatically deemed a “satisfactory program” by the Foundation. If the program selected by the winner is not on this list, the Foundation will, at its sole discretion, determine whether the level of Jewish content of the requested program is acceptable to qualify the program as a “satisfactory program.” Alternatively, at its sole discretion, the Foundation may notify the Organization that the selected program is not on its approved list and invite the winning author to select a different program that is on the approved list.

Examples of “satisfactory programs” include Camp Moshava, Camp Ramah New England, Camp Coleman, EIE Semester in Israel, Camp Young Judaea, USY Summer Encampment, USY National Convention, NFTY Winter and Summer Regional and National Conferences, Nativ, Young Judaea Year Course, Yeshivat Gush Etzion, Yeshivat Shalavim, and Midreshet Harova.

Once the Foundation has approved the program, the Foundation will arrange to pay the tuition of the program (up to the maximum award) directly to the Organization for the benefit of the winning author. The Organization can then either reimburse the winner’s family or send the amount directly to the camp/Israel program.

The Student Prize must be used by the winning author within three years of receiving the award, otherwise the right to the award will automatically expire. All Student Prizes that are not utilized within that time period will automatically become null and void.

AWARDS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

The Foundation will select:

1. The best three Writing Submissions submitted by eligible Organizations with middle school age students and will award first, second, and third place prizes in the form of contributions to the

scholarship fund of each of the Organization from which these three Writing Submissions originated. The prize amounts are:

1. First place: \$25,000 for day schools and \$15,000 for other programs;
2. Second place: \$15,000 for day schools and \$10,000 for other programs;
3. Third place: \$5,000 for both day schools and other programs.

2. The best three Writing Submissions submitted by eligible Organizations with high school age students and will award first, second, and third place prizes in the form of contributions to the scholarship fund of each of the Organization from which these three Writing Submissions originated. The prize amounts are:

1. First place: \$25,000 for day schools and \$15,000 for other programs;
2. Second place: \$15,000 for day schools and \$10,000 for other programs;
3. Third place: \$5,000 for both day schools and other program.

3. The best three Writing Submissions submitted by eligible Organizations with college students and will award first, second, and third place prizes in the form of contributions to the scholarship fund of each of the Organization from which these three Writing Submissions originated. The prize amounts are:

1. First place: \$25,000
2. Second place: \$15,000
3. Third place: \$5,000

SUBMISSION RULES

Only email submissions sent to the Foundation from the Organization will be accepted. Entrees can be in one or more emails depending upon file size.

The body of the email(s) must include the following information:

- Organization name and location;

- Name and contact information (phone number and e-mail address) for person at the Organization supervising the Better Together program (the “Program Supervisor”);
- List of the names and grades of the authors and the titles of each Writing Submission submitted by the Organization, including an indication of which author received the Student Prize; and

The following documents must be attached to the email:

- The Word file for each Writing Submission;
- A completed Organization certification in the form;
- A completed parent certification for each Writing Submission in the form.

NOTE: The Forms can be found [here \(PDF\)](#) and [here \(Word\)](#).

Submissions should be emailed to: BetterTogether@jewishedproject.org with the Subject line “Better Together Writing Contest 2022-2023.”

Entries for 22-23 programs will be accepted between Monday morning, February 6, 2023 and Friday, March 31, 2023.

Winners of the Organization Prizes will be announced by May 11, 2023.

The Foundation reserves the right to adjust or modify the contest rules in order to fulfill the objectives of the contest. The Foundation maintains the right to resolve any ambiguity in the contest rules at its sole discretion.

If you have questions about the Better2Write contest, e-mail us at BetterTogether@jewishedproject.org.