



2026-2027 ATT Pogrund Family Essay Contest Rules

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

- a. Explain how an historical event influences Jewish life today.
 - e.g.: *Yetzias Mitzrayim*, Discovery of America, Creation of the Printing Press, the Internet
- b. 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 *mezuzah* recording its travels through Jewish history.
- c. How my family has shaped my Jewish identity
- d. Explain a *Tefilah* (prayer) from the *Siddur* or a passage from *Tehillim* and its special meaning to you and the role it plays in your life.
 - a. e.g.: *Shema*, *Yoshev B'seter* (91) and what I think about when I recite it.
- e. Write a summary of one of the *Sifrei Tanach*.
- f. Describe a modern problem and show how our sacred texts deal with the problem.
 - e.g.: Sanctity of Human Life; Anti-Semitism

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 (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 13, 2027, by 5:00 p.m.

6. Prizes: \$50.00 per winner (In 2025-2026, 58 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
- **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 (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.