

White Rose Research Project: Client Connected Project for The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education

Background: The **Midwest Center for Holocaust Education (MCHE)** is a nonprofit founded in 1993 by Holocaust survivors Isak Federman and Jack Mandelbaum. Their vision was to create an outreach center that focused all of its resources on education. Therefore, MCHE is not a museum. **Its mission is “to teach the history of the Holocaust, applying its lessons to counter indifference, intolerance, and genocide.”** MCHE provides educational programs and resources for general audiences, school groups, educators, corporate groups, law enforcement, non-profit partners, the families of survivors, and others.

The Research Contest: MCHE sponsors an annual research contest for secondary students. Students are asked to research a given Holocaust topic and reflect upon their work. Students may opt to submit an essay or documentary; these are judged in separate categories. Students are grouped into two divisions—lower for 8th and 9th graders and upper for 10th through 12th graders. All entries are blindly evaluated by a volunteer panel of judges. From this first round of evaluation, finalists are selected for advancement to a Blue Ribbon Panel of judges. Again, final entries are evaluated blindly. All finalists are honored at an awards ceremony where winners are announced and their work is read to or viewed by the attending audience.

MCHE Goals for the Contest:

- Expand students’ knowledge and understanding of the Holocaust.
- Promote students’ interest and skill in historical/ Holocaust research.
- Develop students’ skills in analyzing sources and using primary source materials.
- Develop students’ critical thinking skills, including synthesizing information from multiple sources.
- Develop students’ skills in professional writing including citing and documenting sources.
- Develop students’ skills in conveying accurate, historical information via essay or documentary video including citing and documenting sources.
- Provide students with a “real-world” audience for their academic work.
- Incentivize students by offering cash and other prizes for high-quality academic work.
- Support the curricular objectives/ learning standards of school districts and states.
- Expand participation in the White Rose contest—in the Kansas City metro and throughout the Midwest.
- Increase awareness of MCHE’s mission and programs for students, teachers, and the community.

Project: Produce an essay or documentary video that meets contest requirements. Check the MCHE website in September when the White Rose Research Contest prompt for each academic year is posted. In addition, the contest requirements, primary source documents, and scoring rubrics will be available at that time.

The final product delivered to the MCHE must:

The students must be able to (Market Value Asset):

- Meet all requirements delineated in the essay or documentary scoring rubric.
- Convey accurate, well-documented historical information about the Holocaust.
- Demonstrate critical thinking about both the contest research and reflection prompts.
- Educate the essay reader or documentary viewer about the contest topic in an engaging manner.
- Convey factual information with the authenticity of the author’s voice.