



# Mennonite Heritage Center

## 2017 History Essay Contest Rules

The Mennonite Heritage Center (MHC) is pleased to announce that the 2017 History Essay Contest is now open. The purpose is to promote youth awareness of and interest in Eastern Pennsylvania history.

### Awards

- Prizes will be awarded as follows: First prize \$500; Second prize \$250; and Third prize \$250.
- Winners will be announced and prizes awarded in May 2017.

### Guidelines

- Contest is open to all students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades in public, private, and home school.
- Students of immediate family of MHC staff or Board members are not eligible.

### Essay requirements

- Essays must be written about Eastern Pennsylvania history – The Heritage Center will open an exhibit in April called “Opportunity and Conscience: Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century Mennonite Immigration.” We encourage entrants, in that spirit, to choose a topic related to immigration. For example, “The Challenges of the Eighteenth Century Atlantic Crossing” or even “The Contemporary Implications of the Emma Lazarus Statue of Liberty Inscription.” The Heritage Center library, archives, and staff are available as a resource for researchers.
- Essays must be 1,000-1,750 words. End notes and bibliography are not part of the total word count. A specific font or point size is not required.
- Essays must have the title on each page, not the student’s name. Please attach the Contest Entrance Form (found at [www.mhep.org/files/History Essay Contest Entrance Form.docx](http://www.mhep.org/files/History_Essay_Contest_Entrance_Form.docx)) with your essay. Personal information will not be seen by the judges.
- Essays will be judged on merit alone.
- Essays that use a variety of sources will fare better. Use of primary sources will likely improve the value of the essay. (Primary sources are documents or physical objects which were written or created during the time under study. Depending on your topic, the Library and Archives at the Mennonite Heritage Center, as well as other local libraries, may have primary sources available for your research.)
- Essays should represent original thinking and research. When borrowing ideas and language from a source, be sure to cite properly.
- Credit all sources used. The choice of citation style is up to the student. Use a standard method, such as MLA, Chicago, or APA.
- Plagiarism will disqualify an essay from the contest.

### Deadline

- Submissions must be received or postmarked by April 1, 2017.

### Submission Process

- Digital submission of word documents is preferred, but we also will accept essays postmarked or hand delivered by the deadline.
- Email essays to [diehls@mhep.org](mailto:diehls@mhep.org)
- Mail essays to History Essay Contest, Mennonite Heritage Center, 565 Yoder Rd., Harleysville, PA 19438

### Publication

- By submitting the essay, the author is granting MHC permission to publish the essay (or portion thereof) in the *Quarterly Newsletter* or on our website. MHC reserves the right to edit any article chosen for publication.

### Questions

- Questions may be directed to Steve Diehl, Director of Advancement, [diehls@mhep.org](mailto:diehls@mhep.org) or 215-256-3020 x115.