

The Suffolk County Jewish Advisory Board

Presents

The 2022 Mark J. Epstein Suffolk County Leadership Award For Combating Antisemitism

--ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES--

I. Purpose

The main purpose of this contest is for you to develop and share ideas on how to effectively combat antisemitism in a written essay. This award was created to honor the memory of Mark J. Epstein, the founder of the Suffolk County Jewish Advisory Board and a zealous advocate for the Suffolk County Jewish community.

There will be three winning essays: one from a High School student, one from a Middle/Junior High School student, and one from an Elementary School student.

II. Contest rules

1. **Guidelines and criteria:** Submissions of no less than 450 words and no more than 600 words should be written based on the theme, “Effectively Combating Antisemitism.” You may base your response on any of the following issues:
 - Firsthand experiences either as targets of antisemitism, fighters against antisemitism or observers of antisemitism. Whether you are Jewish or not, we want to hear how your experiences inform your understanding of antisemitism and how you have fought it or would fight it. You can express meaningful calls to action, strategies and methods to effectively combat antisemitism that you have engaged in or are committing to;
 - How antisemitism impacts people who aren’t directly affected by it;
 - The increased antisemitism in the United States in recent years;
 - The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement is an anti-Israel movement which has been growing substantially. You can write about how the movement is a form of antisemitism, which includes the idea that Israel is the birthplace of the Jewish people;
 - The history of Israel, as well as its current state, including the nature of Israel’s conflicts with neighboring countries in the Middle East?
 - Any other topic you’d wish to write about.

Participants are strongly encouraged to visit the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) website to understand the working definition of antisemitism and contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools and elsewhere. The definition, adopted by the IHRA’s 31 member nations in 2016, and examples of antisemitism

can be found at www.holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definitions-charters/working-definition-antisemitism

2. Eligibility: You must be a student in grades K-12 in Suffolk County (private or public school).

3. Your response must be in English. The length of the response should be between 450 words and 600 words. All entries will become the property of the Suffolk County Jewish Advisory Board (“SCJAB”).

4. All submissions should include the following information: 1) Student’s first and last name 2) Student’s birthdate (month/day/year) 3) Student’s mailing address 4) Student’s phone number 5) Student’s email address 6) School name 7) School address 8) Whether student attends elementary, middle/junior or high school.

By submitting your entry for this award, you certify that, to the best of your knowledge and belief, all of the above information in this submission is true, correct, complete, and made in good faith. You understand that false or fraudulent information in this submission will be grounds for disqualification.

5. Along with the above personal information, email your written submission for the award to JABofSuffol@gmail.com.

6. Submission deadline: May 13, 2022

7. All eligible entries will be judged on:
A. Quality of content and adherence to theme; and
B. Creativity and depth of your response

8. Winners will be announced on May 27, 2022 on the SCJAB website www.jabofsuffolk.com.

III. Awards Presentation

There will be one winner for each group (High School, Middle/Junior High and Elementary School), who will receive a certificate of accomplishment and recognition awarded by the SCJAB and the Suffolk County Executive.

All winners and their families will be invited to an award ceremony scheduled to take place in the near future, either in person or digitally.

IV. Direct any questions to Allan Richter at JABofSuffolk@gmail.com