



THE
ANNE FRANK
CENTER
USA

The Anne Frank Center USA National Essay Contest

Anne Frank was just 13 when her family went into hiding in the Secret Annex to avoid capture by the Nazis. The experience took away nearly everything—from friends to fresh air—but her curiosity and optimism remained, as evidenced in her now famous diary. During the two years she spent in hiding, she used writing to reflect on the turmoil of the world around her, stressing the need not only for tolerance and peace, but for individuals brave enough to work toward these things. “How wonderful it is,” she observed in March 1944, “that no one has to wait, but can start right now to gradually change the world!”

The Anne Frank Center USA was founded by Anne’s father, Otto Frank, the only member of her family to survive the war. The Center hosts exhibits and programs devoted to eradicating bigotry in favor of peace. In 2009, we launched **The Sapling Project**, which awarded saplings from the very tree outside of Anne’s hiding spot to eleven iconic sites in America—as a way to bring this hopeful message to future generations.

The Center believes, as Anne did, that children matter and can make a positive difference. In honor of Anne and the **National Day on Writing**, we are sponsoring an essay contest to inspire young people to think about the consequences of intolerance, racism, and discrimination, as well as ways the next generation can build a world based on mutual respect.

**The contest is open to students currently in grades 5–8.
The deadline for submissions is the National Day on Writing:
Monday, October 20, 2014.**

The **Grand Prize**, sponsored by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, includes round trip economy class tickets for the winner and two guests from a KLM USA gateway city to Amsterdam. The DoubleTree by Hilton at Amsterdam Centraal Station is providing three nights in the hotel, and the Anne Frank House is providing a private tour.

**Please READ ALL GUIDELINES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS
below before submitting your application form and essay.**

Send your submissions electronically to education@annefrank.com or mail them to:

**The Anne Frank Center USA
Attention: National Essay Contest
44 Park Place
New York, NY 10007**



OFFICIAL AIRLINE of  THE ANNE FRANK CENTER USA

The Anne Frank Center USA National Essay contest is supported by:

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines was founded in 1919, making it the world’s oldest airline operating under its original name. In the Netherlands, KLM comprises the core of the KLM Group, which further includes KLM cityhopper, transavia.com, and Martinair. KLM serves its destinations using a modern fleet and employs more than 33,000 people worldwide. KLM is a leader in the airline industry, offering reliable operations and customer-oriented products, resulting from its policy of enthusiasm and sustainable innovation. KLM is a member of the global SkyTeam airline alliance, offering customers an extensive worldwide network.

KLM is the Official Airline of The Anne Frank Center USA and the National Sponsor of the Sapling Project.

Located in the city center of Amsterdam, DoubleTree by Hilton is footsteps away from all major tourist attractions, offering unique views over the city’s historic old town and the river IJ.



DOUBLETREE
BY HILTON
AMSTERDAM CENTRAAL STATION

Please Note the Following Guidelines for The Anne Frank Center USA National Essay Contest

- Essays should be between 500-700 words and be original, unpublished work.
- Essays must be typed, double-spaced, using a 12-point font and one inch margins.
- Essays should be written in response to ONE of the questions below AND should reference Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl* and/or *Tales from the Secret Annex*, which you can obtain at your local library or through our online bookstore: <http://annefrank.com/about-the-center/bookstore/>.
- All submissions MUST include a completed application form (see below). **Essays that DO NOT include a completed application form WILL NOT be considered.**
- Submitted essays should have a title, to be included on the application form AND on the first page of the essay itself.
- Emailed submissions must include "National Essay Contest" in the subject line, AND be submitted as attachments in .doc, .docx, or .pdf formats. **No other formats will be accepted.**

Terms and Conditions:

- The contest is only open to students enrolled in grades 5, 6, 7, or 8, as of September 2014.
- The winner will be selected at the sole discretion of The Anne Frank Center USA.
- The winner will be notified in December 2014.
- All or part of the winner's essay may be posted online and/or shared via social media. By submitting essays, contest entrants and their parents/legal guardians grant permission for The Anne Frank Center USA to post their essays (or portions of these essays) on the internet. The winner will also sign a release and agree to provide photographs of her/his trip that may be used in print and social media by The Anne Frank Center and KLM.
- The Grand Prize winner will receive, courtesy of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, 3 round trip economy class tickets to Amsterdam on a KLM operated flight from a KLM USA gateway city¹, as well as 3 evenings at the DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station, courtesy of the hotel. **At least one person traveling with the winner must be 21 or over and be a parent, legal guardian or person authorized by a parent or legal guardian.** Travel dates and private tour of the Anne Frank House will be at the discretion of KLM, the Anne Frank House, and DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station. **Blackout dates and other restrictions may apply; all details will be provided to the winner.**

¹ In 2014, KLM gateways are Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, and Washington, DC.

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Choose one of the following questions and write a 500–700 word response.

Question 1:

From her only window to the outside world, Anne Frank could see the sky, birds, and a majestic chestnut tree. “As long as this exists,” she wrote in her diary, “how can I be sad?” During the two years she spent in hiding, Anne found solace in this majestic tree, in powerful contrast to the man-made terror of the war and the Holocaust as they unfolded outside her attic window. The tree was a vivid reminder that a better world was possible.

In 2009, The Anne Frank Center USA launched The Sapling Project, awarding 11 saplings taken from this very same chestnut tree to institutions around America that are dedicated to the pursuit of tolerance and justice, including the U.S. Capitol Building, the Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, and Little Rock Central High School. For this question, please write an essay in which you **reflect on what nature can teach us about freedom and resilience. What themes do you find in nature that might inspire a positive, more peaceful outlook? Finally, how do you think these lessons can be passed on from one generation to the next?**

Question 2:

May 1945 will mark the 70th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Throughout her diary, Anne wrote about the chaos of the war around her and about having hope and courage in the face of adversity. “It’s really a wonder that I haven’t dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because in spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.”

For this question—and using Anne’s diary as an inspiration—**write an essay about your vision of the world and your hopes for the future. What does the anniversary of the end of the war mean to you? What lessons do you draw from it, and how do these lessons from the past inform your view of the future? How do your thoughts compare to Anne’s?** Be sure to include quotes from her writing that reflect your own thoughts and feelings.



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Applications must be emailed or post-marked by October 20, 2014.

Please fill out of the following form and submit it with your essay.

Please type or print legibly.

Applicant Name

Date of Birth

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

Email

Phone

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Email

Phone

School Name

Grade

School Address

Essay Responds to Question # 1 or 2

Essay Title

I have read all of the information regarding this essay contest as provided and agree to the terms and conditions listed.

I affirm that my submitted essay is an original work, of which I am the sole writer, and that all of the material and information included in this application is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date