

The 2017 Holodomor Essay Writing Contest Guidelines

The year 2017 marks the 84th anniversary of the Holodomor—the Ukrainian famine-genocide. *Holod* means “hunger” and *moryty* means “exterminate” or “starve to death.” More than eighty years after this tragedy, we still struggle to make sense of what happened in Ukraine and ethnically Ukrainian grain growing regions of the North Caucasus during 1932-1933, why it happened, and how we remember, or fail to remember this genocide.

- October 5 through November 5, 2017
- Sponsored by the Millstones of History, a California non-profit dedicated to the study of the Holodomor and other genocides
- Only one entry per person
- All entries must be received by November 5, 2017
- Winners will be announced by December 15, 2017

An essay (1,000 words, four double-spaced pages) must relate in some way to the Holodomor of 1932-1933. Open to everyone in the following categories. Three winners will be selected in each category.

- College/University students
- High School students
- San Joaquin Valley residents

The following prizes will be given in each category:

First Prize	\$300
Second Prize	\$200
Third Prize	\$100

The winners will be determined by a selection committee consisting of Ukrainian American community members and college/university faculty. Please provide your name, mailing address, projected graduation year (for students), and title of the essay in the text of e-mail accompanying the document. The name should not appear on any headers or footers. Please indicate your essay’s category when you submit your work to the Millstones of History at millstonesofhistory@gmail.com.

November is the time of year when the Holodomor is remembered by Ukrainians world over. In sorrow, in deep, deep sorrow. The genocidal famine took toll of seven million people: five million people in Ukraine, one million in ethnically Ukrainian areas in the Northern Caucasus, and one more million in labor camps in Siberia. The truth about the famine-genocide in Ukraine was concealed at the time when the United States recognized the USSR that same month in 1933. For over half a century, the famine was hardly spoken of or written about inside and outside Ukraine, due to an academic skepticism and silence enforced by political correctness. The issue is particularly relevant this year that marks 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution that brought to power a hellish ideology that had little concern for life and love, every bit as ruthless as German National Socialism. Ukrainians have known this for a long time. They want the rest of the world to know it as well.

Types of essays to consider and topics to reflect on:

- **An Analysis of a Historical Document**

Choose three to four key primary sources (e.g., governmental resolutions) and write a historiographic essay, analyzing what each one reveals about the event in its historical context.

- **A Newspaper Article Analysis**

Focus this essay on one or two newspaper journalists who covered the Holodomor in Western press. How did they present the facts about what was going on in Ukraine during 1932 and 1933? What explanations were given for the causes of the Holodomor at the time? What do you think about the way in which the event was portrayed by the journalists?

- **A Film Review**

Identify the film and its producer, analyze the main idea presented and artistic devices the director used to put his main idea across. Was this a fair presentation of the main idea? What would you add to the film to emphasize the main idea?

- **An Argumentative Essay**

Considering that the theme of this year's symposium is "Hunger for Truth: Illuminating the Hidden History of the Holodomor," write an essay arguing whether or not we get nearer to the truth the closer we are to the event or the more removed we are from it. Suggest reasons to support your position using the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933 as your example.

- **A Comparative Essay**

Take a comparative approach by answering the following questions: What inspires the denial of genocides, particularly the ones that happened between 1915 and 1945? What do David Irving or Paul Faurisson (champions of Holocaust denial), the Turkish establishment, the late Douglas Tottle, and the Belgian Marxist-Leninist Ludo Martens (who, in his 1994 book, *Un autre regard sur Staline*, denies Stalin's extermination policies) have in common?

- **An Interview or Biography of a Survivor**

Conduct an interview or read witness accounts, collected in a three-volume *Investigation of the Ukrainian Famine, 1932-1933: Oral History Project of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. GPO, 1990), and write a life story of a survivor.

- **An Analysis of a Painting or an Artwork**

Analyze the contents of a work of art or a propaganda poster produced during the Holodomor.