

Here are some suggestions and resources to help you and your students get the most out of this exciting opportunity:

### **Writing Process**

Every year we receive many excellent essays. Those that do not adhere to the contest guidelines or contain obvious grammar faults rarely make it past the first round. To increase their chances of success, **make sure students proofread carefully, get feedback, and write multiple drafts before submitting.**

Many teachers assign the contest as a class project or as extra credit. If you do so, please **allow students to decide for themselves** whether they wish to enter their essay into the contest.

Encourage your students to review [JPEF's Student Best Practices Guide](#), which can be found on the contest page.

### **Classroom Resources**

We encourage you to review these materials both to prep yourself and to help you point individual students to resources that most closely align with their interest.

[Jewish Women in the Partisans \(WiP\) Resource Page \(jewishpartisans.org/women\)](#) – start here to access the WiP films, study guides and women partisan profiles and more.

[Online Courses \(jewishpartisans.org/elearning\)](#) – JPEF's e-learning courses will give you the tools and knowledge to effectively teach this subject in your class. See the "How to Use This in the Classroom" chapter for teaching tips and curriculum suggestions. The most relevant courses are *Women in the Partisans* and *Resistance Basics*.

*E-Learning courses can also be used in the classroom.* Select the chapters you want to show ahead of time and skip "How to Use". If you have access to a computer lab, students watch at their own pace in small groups, or take the course after class.

**IMPORTANT:** Review the WiP film and e-learning course ahead of time to decide if the sections dealing with how women overcame sexual harassment are appropriate for your class.

[Short Films \(jewishpartisans.org/films\)](#) – watch *Every Day the Impossible: Jewish Women in the Partisans* and *A Partisan Returns: the Legacy of Two Sisters*. They are a great way to introduce your students to the subject and to the women profiled on our site.

[Study Guides and Poster \(jewishpartisans.org/resist\)](#) – *Women in the Partisans*, *Gertrude Boyarski* and *Sonia Orbuch* study guides will be of most interest to your students. Start with the WiP study guide, which contains a treasure trove of resources. See page 5 for small-group or whole-class discussion questions. Answering these questions can help students think about directions for their essays. You will also find a downloadable *Eta Wrobel "RESIST" poster*.

[Partisan Webcast: April 17, 2012, 10am PST \(jewishpartisans.org/webcast\)](#) – the webcast is a great way to cap off any lessons featuring the essay contest. However, the number of entries is limited, so students may be better off submitting their essays before the 17th to ensure participation.

### **Curriculum Ideas**

**Composition** – use the contest topic as a focus for lesson on essays writing and the editing process. Highlight common issues such as thesis statement, essay structure, grammar, style, voice, and syntax.

**Make It a Fun, Optional Assignment** – though you can use the writing contest prompt as a departure point for in-class or homework assignments, it also makes an excellent extra-credit assignment. Students can explore the resource page on their own or watch the e-learning class, then discuss their topic focus with you before writing their essay

**Jewish Education and Youth Groups** – there are many parallels between the experience of the Jewish partisans and the Passover story. This year's topic also integrates well with studies of Jewish women in history and the Tanach. Essays also make great content for youth group newsletters or classroom/Shabbat d'vars.

**More Curriculum Ideas** – once again, the WiP e-learning course (particularly the chapter on "How to Use This in the Classroom") contains many teaching tips and curriculum suggestions to help you expand the contest theme into lessons and activities that will make a lasting impact on your students.

*Your encouragement, assistance and enthusiasm for these projects will help your students become excited about the learning process and the possibility of winning a nationwide essay contest. The rest of your class will have learned a great deal in the process. Let us know if these suggestions have been helpful and how you have used them in your class. We are always looking for better ways to assist you in the important work of encouraging your students to learn and make a positive difference in the world.*