2010 Essay Contest FAQ’s

Who can enter this essay contest?
The contest is open to any full-time/part-time student registered at the University of Maryland, College Park, during any part of the Fall 2010 semester. UMD Staff and Faculty are not eligible to enter.

What should the topic of my paper be based on?
The main subject of your paper should be sufficiently linked with Israel, though the topic is up to you. Therefore, it can be about Israel’s connection with economy/history/government/politics/business/art/media/etc. As long as the main theme involves ISRAEL in the broad context, it may be submitted.

Whom can I contact if I have questions about the topic of my paper?
You can email: israelstudies-contact@umd.edu. However NO guidance or assistance will be given as to how your paper should be structured or completed.

What should I submit?
You should submit your paper as an email attachment in MS-Word, including your name, UID#, contact information (primary email address & cell#), your major, expected date of graduation and degree, what school or college you are enrolled at, and what course and semester you originally submitted your entry paper for.

What kind of paper may I submit?
Any sort of academic paper is eligible and will be considered (i.e. research paper, book review, literature review, etc.)  All materials submitted MUST have been written for a university course, in pursuit of a degree (undergraduate or graduate.)

How long may the paper be?
The body of the paper must be at least 3000 words (approximately 6 double spaced pages) exclusive of notes or other materials but no more than 8000 words (inclusive of notes.)

Do I need to submit a bibliography and reference my sources?
Yes, if you are using any references in your paper, a bibliography MUST accompany your paper, unless full citations are provided in footnotes. Any entry showing evidence of plagiarism will be disqualified at the sole discretion of the judges.
Where do I email my paper for submission?

All papers must be emailed to www.israelstudies-contact@umd.edu

When is the deadline for submitting my paper?

All papers must be submitted by midnight EST on Friday, December 31, 2010.

What happens to my paper after I have submitted it?

All submissions will become property of the Gildenhorn Institute and will not be returned. All papers will be kept and judged by a committee.

Will my paper be distributed outside of the University?

Papers will not be distributed outside the Gildenhorn Institute without the author’s written permission.

Who will be judging the papers?

Decisions will be made by a committee comprised of the Gildenhorn Institute’s faculty.

Can I appeal the judge’s decision?

No, the decisions of the judges will be final.

Is it possible that no winner will be chosen?

Although the Gildenhorn Institute intends and desires to award a prize, it reserves the right not to award any prize if none of the papers submitted are of sufficient quality.

How many winners will be chosen?

Only one winner will be chosen. There will be no second or third place prizes.

When will the winner of the contest be announced?

The winner will be announced on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

How will I be notified if I win?

Winner will be contacted by email on Tuesday, February 1, 2011, followed by a formal written letter.

What may I win?

The winner of the contest will win one roundtrip, economy-class, air ticket to Israel. The cost of the ticket must NOT exceed $1,500, including all surcharges and taxes. You will receive an airfare voucher certificate, which will be redeemable only through the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies.
How may I redeem my prize?

The purchase of your ticket must be coordinated through the Gildenhorn Institute for Israel Studies and purchased through an authorized University of Maryland Travel Agency.

What if I want to purchase a flight that will exceed the $1,500 cost?

We will only authorize the purchase of one roundtrip, economy-class flight, NOT to exceed $1,500, including all surcharges and taxes. This offer cannot be combined with any accumulated air miles incentive plans for further upgrades; nor will it be possible for you to pay out-of-pocket the cost difference in order to upgrade seat or flight.

When do I have to redeem my prize?

Airfare voucher must be redeemed no later than December 31, 2011. Flights may leave after December 31, 2011; however the flight MUST have been booked by or before December 31,

What information will be publicized on the Gildenhorn Institute website?

By entering the contest, any entrant agrees to have his/her name, title of the paper and an abstract of the paper announced on the website.

Will my paper be published after I win?

The paper will be put up on the Gildenhorn Institute’s website, but only if the author agrees in writing.

What if I also intend to submit my paper to an academic journal?

If the author intends to submit their paper to an academic journal, he/she should consider whether publication on the Gildenhorn Institute website would prevent it from being published elsewhere. The paper may be submitted in any case to the contest; its appearance on our website is optional.

Any other questions?

Please email the Israel Studies coordinator, Jennifer Cornejo at jcornejo@umd.edu. You must use “Israel Studies Essay Contest” in your subject line.

Visit our website: www.israelstudies.umd.edu