

Category A (14 – 17 years old)

Research Essay (individual or team participation; maximum group size: 3 people).

The Essay should contain introduction, main section, conclusions and list of references.

Introduction must explain the motivation for conducting the research and participating in the contest, as well as provide a rationale for the research topic and objective.

Main section should focus on the following topics:

- Socio-political situation in Chernivtsi in times of Selma's childhood and youth.
- Selma's school life and social circle.
- The Holocaust in Chernivtsi and the deportation of Selma Merbaum and her family to Transnistria.
- Significance of poetry in Selma's life.

Conclusions represent the creative part of the assignment, based on the research conducted and presented in the main section of the work. In their conclusions, participants should explain the image of Selma they formed in their minds, the emotions evoked by her poetry and the reflections prompted by her story.

Research Essay Evaluation Criteria:

- Adherence to formatting requirements and structure (2 points);
- Clarity of the argument regarding the research objective (2 points);
- Use of diverse sources (archival materials, newspapers) and literature (2 points);
- Analysis of historical material (3 points);
- Persuasiveness of conclusions (3 points);
- Originality and creative approach (3 points).

Contest entries may be submitted in Ukrainian, German, or English. Contest entry includes the Research Essay + **Participant Form** [<https://forms.gle/tuq2hxDsRX3XrhWD8>].

Formatting Requirements for Contest Entries:

1. The title page must include the name of the competition, the title of the research project, the full name(s) of the author(s), the full name of the academic supervisor, the name of the educational institution, and the supervisor's contact phone number and email address (**Sample title page format** [[hyperlink here](#)]).
2. Research size: 10 to 15 A4pages + list of references.
3. Continuous page numbering (the page number is not displayed on the title page but is included in the total page count);
4. Font: Times New Roman, size 14; line spacing: 1.5; text alignment: justified.
Margins: left – 3 cm, right – 1.5 cm, top – 2 cm, bottom – 2 cm.

5. References to sources are provided in square brackets within the text [source number from the list of references, P. page number].

Sample formatting for the list of references.