

\$1000.00 Scholarship

For Virginia high school students grades 9-12

**The Armenian Education Center/Scholarship
c/o St. James Armenian Church
834 Pepper Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23226**

February 2020

To: High School Counselors, Scholarship Coordinators, K-12 History Coordinators and History Department Chairmen.
Please copy this letter and share with all counselors and history teachers in your school or school system.

Subject: The Armenian Education Center is pleased to announce an essay question contest, which will award a **\$1000.00 scholarship** to one Virginia high school student. The essay contest is open to public, private, and home-school ninth through twelfth grade students. Hard copy essays must be postmarked no later than April 24, 2020. As per instructions, essays **must also** be emailed by April 24th. Please see the enclosed essay question and presentation format for specific details.

History Teachers: This essay addresses the second part of **SOL World History II, 11d** that examines the Holocaust and other examples of genocide in the twentieth century. Teachers can review page 61 of the 2015 SOL Curriculum Framework for additional information. If you assign this as a research topic when teaching this SOL objective, be sure to encourage your students to consider entering the attached \$1000 scholarship competition.

Please visit our website, www.armenian-educationcenter.org. It is designed for educators with lesson plans and resources for teaching the Armenian Genocide.

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***\$1000.00 Armenian Genocide Scholarship Question Spring 2020**

The **Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923** is an historical fact. Facts can be verified with evidence while opinions cannot. For more than a century the Turkish government has denied that the Armenian Genocide occurred. As you conduct your research you will find that there is an array of information readily available that addresses the facts, opinions and biases regarding the Armenian Genocide. In order to draw informed conclusions about the accuracy and validity of the events that took place leading up to and during the Armenian Genocide, a critical examination of the available information is needed.

Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire (present day Turkey) from 1913-1916, referred to the Armenian Genocide in his memoir as follows:

I am confident that the whole history of the human race contains no such horrible episode as this. The great massacres and persecutions of the past seem almost insignificant when compared with the sufferings of the Armenian race in 1915. He also stated: When the Turkish authorities gave the orders for these deportations, they were merely giving the death warrant to a whole race; they understood this well, and, in their conversations with me, they made no particular attempt to conceal the fact.

The core purpose of your essay is to answer this question: How do we know the Armenian Genocide really happened? A variety of historical thinking skills should be demonstrated in the essay that reflect your ability to analyze, compare, and contrast multiple texts for content, intent, impact, and effectiveness. You are also expected to examine primary and secondary sources that are related to the Armenian Genocide but are from different perspectives. By using these historical thinking skills, you will be able to distinguish between reliable and unreliable sources in your research. Questions you might ask yourself about the sources uncovered in your research are: Why does this information even exist? How do I know if this information is reliable and truthful? How do I know if the historical content is accurate? In selecting the sources for my conclusions, did I carefully evaluate the authors' credentials?

***Due to the similarity of prior years' questions, previous winners are ineligible to enter.**

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A Few Words Concerning Organization

Think of your opening and closing paragraphs as "bookends" that hold the body of your essay in place. Within the body of your paper, be certain that you support your statements with information derived from credible sources. Your concluding paragraph should summarize the key points while making clear your opinion on the topic. Those evaluating your essay will be very interested in your voice (your personal opinion and feelings) in addition to having demonstrated clear knowledge of this period in history.

Preparing Your Essay for Submission

VERY IMPORTANT: Save your document using the following format: last name first initial_AG2020; example for Joan Smith essay would be saved as: **smithj_AG2020**.

Format: (MLA format):

- ◆ Essays must be typed double spaced using Times New Roman 12 font; handwritten essays are not accepted.
- ◆ Body of essay should not exceed four typed written pages; not included in the page count is a required Works Cited page and cover page.
- ◆ Please include parenthetical citations.
- ◆ Include your name on the top right corner of each page.

Cover Page must include:

- ◆ Title of essay
- ◆ Student's name
- ◆ Student's email and grade level
- ◆ High school name, address and phone number
- ◆ Name of school counselor and direct phone number or extension

Mail and electronically submit your essay:

Both an emailed version and two mailed hard copies are required by the **April 24, 2020** deadline. ***Please paperclip (do not staple) the hard copies and mail them unfolded in a manila envelope.*** Use the correct postage amount or your essay will be returned unopened. Please email your essay as a Microsoft Word document to:

director@armenian-educationcenter.org

Please do not send letters of recommendation and/or transcripts with your essay.

Mail hard copies to address below, attention: Scholarship Committee

Please note: Failure to follow the above requirements for submission and mailing will result in disqualification of your essay. Essays become the property of The Armenian Education Center. By submitting your essay, you agree that it can be reproduced and shared in whole or in part by the Armenian Education Center. For additional information please email:
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