

**ACTR 35th National Russian Essay Contest
First and Second Round Results**

As was reported in the Winter ACTR Letter, 1,201 high school students wrote essays in the 35th Annual ACTR National Russian Essay Contest on the topic: «Письмо историческому персонажу». Judges received coded essays in early January, and then read and rated them according to communicative guidelines. Judges were instructed to look first at whether the students were able to communicate their thoughts to a tolerant native speaker, and then to judge the content, effort, style, and grammar presented in the essays.

Judges for the first round of the NREC this year were:

Anna Czeczulin, Goucher College, MD
 Olga Gotta, Whitby School, CT
 Jill Lederman, Berkshire Country Day School, MA
 Bozena Szulc, Linden Hills High School, NJ
 Lisa Steffen, State University of New York at Brockport, NY
 Mara Sukholutskaya, East Central Oklahoma University, OK
 Marina Sweany, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
 Dawn Stuart Weinraub, Emma Willard School (emerita), NY
 Evgenia Mikhaylova Wilkins, Portland State University, OR
 Judith CB Wobst, Amherst Regional High School (emerita), MA

In the table below you can see the distribution of awards for the first round of the NREC this year.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Honorable Mention	No Award	Total
Beginner	59	109	162	116	4	450
Beginner Heritage	4	4	1	1	0	10
Intermediate	60	93	124	68	0	345
Intermediate Heritage	15	15	20	10	0	60
Advanced	33	67	80	58	2	240
Advanced Heritage	26	16	20	11	0	73
Native Speaker	12	7	3	1	0	23
Total	209	311	410	265	6	1,201

In March participating teachers received first round NREC results, certificates, and medals for the contest. Congratulations to all the medalists and their teachers!

We are pleased to present the names of first round gold medal essayists and their teachers.

FIRST ROUND GOLD MEDAL ESSAYISTS, 35th NATIONAL RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

(Teacher names in bold)

- Anglo-American School of Moscow - **Nina Nazarenko**: Alexandra Burgess (A), Jessica Portnoy (A), Kristina Zabelin (AH), Kyoo Bum Han (B), Mia Tilman (B), Aidan Twitty (B), Eva Buryakovsky (NS), Daniel Golebiowski (NS), Nikolai Sparrow (NS), Tatyana Tabakova (NS), Alexandra Webb (NS), Galina Yushvaeva (NS), Maria Yushvaeva (NS)
- Baltimore International Academy, MD - **Inga Webster**: Nhiyeil Anderson (B), Meh'jaiye Butler-Bey (B), Garland Parvizi (B), Sydney Renshaw (B), Ki'yonna Waters (B)
- Bellaire Language Academy, TX - **Elizabeth McLendon**: Irina Didenko (A), Maria Sharina (AH), Arkadi Zhanov (AH), Alessandra Molchanova (NS)
- Bruriah High School, NJ - **Katya Ratushnyuk**: Shaina Levin (B)
- Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School, MA - **Joshua Walker**: John Flahive (A), Josiah Siegel (A),
- By the Onion Sea, IL - **Julia Kriventsova Denne**: Celia Metzger (A), Amelia Parkes (A), Daria Chudnovsky (AH), Katherine Edwards (AH), Vera Kotelnikova (AH), Sofiya Kyrylyuk (AH), Julia Schroeter (AH), Daniel Holmes (B), Samuel Polyakov (BH), Nicholas Millan (I), Yekaterina Teryokhina (IH), Illia Svirinovskyi (NS)
- Central High School, TN - **Brooke Ballenger**: Amal Altareb (I)
- Cherokee High School, NJ - **Marian Barnum**: Lauren Hollis (B)
- Chugiak High School, AK - **Valerie Ekberg-Brown**: Jaed Hansen (B)
- E.R. Murrow High School, NY - **Yuliya Garmil**: Aiaksnadra Kaplan (A), Aleksandr Li (A), Sonam Nematullah (A), Zarina Ilkanayeva (AH), Sabina Abduvakhidova (BH), Brianna Gilman (BH), Anna Sarkisova (I), Anastasia Stegancova (I), Vladislav Maximov (IH), Sofiya Melnyk (IH), Elizabeth Tsitron (IH), Taras Vorobets (IH)
- Friends School, MD - **Lee Roby**: Josh Brooks (A), Gwen Comfort (A), Jonathan Keegan (A), Kyle Spawn (A)
- Glastonbury High School, CT - **Jan Eklund**: Sophia Ladyzhets (A), Sasha Marccone (AH), Larisa Esposito (I), Eric Grin (I), Lilly Horrigan (I), Ashley Pizzo (I)
- Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IL - **Paavo Husen**: Eve Adami (A), Austin Choi (A), Daniel Curtis (A), Gregory Johnson (A), Rebecca Lisk (A), John Messina (A), Colin O'Reilly (A), Irena Gao (I), Zhaozhi Li (I), Cameron Longfellow (I), Robert Luo (I), Gabrielle Masini (I), Melissa Mu (I), Amanda Wang (I), Gary Yang (I)
- Kellam High School, VA - **Alfreda Pohrivchak**: Weronika Serek (I)

- Langley High School, VA - **Valentin Cukierman**: Victoria Kartseva (AH), Ignat Miagkov (AH), Andrey Smiryagin (AH), Lauren Fahlberg (B), Nicolle Henzel (B), Jennifer London (B), Sonia Prasad (B), Daum Song (B), Allen Averbukh (I), Brooke Baird (I), Megan Carlon (I), Karina Holbrook (I), Michael Linden (I), Abigail Pereira (I), Erin Pierce (I), David Selton (I), Julia Stuckey (I), Isabella Tice (I), Maria Dorodnitsyna (IH), Mary Kurbanov (IH)
- Middlebury Union High School, VT - **Betsy Sandstrom**: Alexander Marohnic (B)
- Newton South High School, MA - **Jill Christensen**: Gregory Basistiy (AH), Maria Kuznetsova (AH), Joseph Vedensky (AH), Eden Bobilev (IH)
- Pritzker College Prep, IL - **Phillip Stosberg**: Jailene Acevedo (B), Anakaren Bahena (B), Jennifer Cariballo (B), Andrew Carrera (B), Veronica De La Mora (B), Grissell Erazo (B), Talia Garcia (B), Taylor Jackson (B), Vanessa Lopez (B), Melanie Mojica (B), Luis Ramirez (B), Angelica Rosa (B), Lesly Silva (B), Claudia Torres Giraldo (B), Mia Wiley (B)
- Roland Park Country School, MD - **Jim Sweigert**: Solana Craig (B), Alexandra Goles (B), David Gushue (B), Bozhena Kulchyckyj (B), Aliya Shen (B), Baojin Zhu (B), Kimaya Basu (I), Eden Komar (I), Lauren Lavelle (I), Rebekah Robinson (I)
- Russian Kids Club, CA - **Ilonja Tombu**: Alisa Majarova (NS), Nicolette Tombu (NS)
- Russian Language School Skyku Net, CA - **Lyudmila Andreyeva**: Mikhail Studenkov (IH)
- Russian School Olympus, DC - **Lidia Krasnov**: Alexandra Alexeeva (AH), Arina Petrova (AH), Samira Raufi (BH)
- Shaker High School, NY - **Anna Shkaf**: Suzanna Diehl (A), Claire Turner (A), Francesco Congiusta (B), ShuangHeng Wang (S)
- Smith Middle School, CT - **John Rook**: Gwentyth Ross (B)
- Sparta High School, NJ - **William E. Brennan**: Simon Levien (I), Jessica Longstreth (I), Patrick Mc Gurrin (I), Delaney Sniffen (I)
- Sparta High School, NJ - **Eric Hood**: Ryan Cilli (B), Lauren Groff (B)
- St. Louis University High School, MO - **Robert Chura**: Matthew Quinliven (A), Daniel Sitek (A), Salvatore Vitellaro (A), Jacob Fields (I), Matthew Rauschenbach (I)
- St. Paul Central High School, MN - **Oksana Cox**: Sheila Pietila (B), Jasper Zarkower (B)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **John Callahan**: Mariam Khan (I), Ju Hee Kim (I)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Veronika Maslyukova**: Sabrina Gambino (B), Wen Pei Liu (B), Jialin Ma (B), Jenna Tsvayg (B),
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Elena Sokolovski**: Lindsey Harris (I), Sandra Knaczyk (I), Sara Mohamed (I), Dana Sun (I), Sophia Kobzarenko (IH), Mark Rekutin (IH), Pamela Stark (IH),
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Nataliya Ushakova**: Ze Jun Li (B), Merrick Eng (I), Stephanie He (I), Steven Hsin (I), Kelly Li (I), Maria Pondikos (I), Sri Yalamanchi (I), Tammy Yang (I), Michal Zaniewski (I)

- Tallwood High School, VA - **Ludmila Yuzhbabenko**: Tianah H. Ngyen (B), Jack E. Schmeiser (B)
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, VA - **Betsy Sandstrom**: Phineas Ulmishek-Andersson (A), Mira Wroblewski (A), Alexey Didenkov (AH), Claire Fan (B), Joshua Pan (B), Siona Prased (B), Grace Lu (I), Olivia Lu (I), Sid Muralidhar (I),
- Thunder Mountain High School, AK - **Janna Lelchuk**: Brimley Oliff (B), Jacob Osborn (B), Thomas Rather (B)
- Vineland High School, NJ - **Vlada Jackson**: Elizabeth Baranovskaya (IH)
- Walnut Hills High School, OH - **Johanka Hart-Tompkins**: Lillian O'Toole (I), Phillip Kogan (IH)
- West High School, AK - **Elena Kostenko-Farkas**: Molly Becia (A), Cassandra Gronning (A), Janpal LaChapelle (A), William Lee (A), Katerina DeVassie (AH), Anastasia Erickson (AH), Nicole Evans (AH), Daniil Kern (AH), Kamilla Rakhimova (AH), Kathleen Amore (I), Kamryn Beagley (I), Lauren Corkran (I), Savannah Lee (I), Erin Stapley (I), Vladimir Artemyev (IH), Daria Wilcox (IH), Alexandra Mefodieva (NS)

SECOND ROUND GOLD MEDAL ESSAYISTS, 35th NATIONAL RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

The essays which were awarded gold medals at the Native Speaker, Advanced Heritage, and Advanced levels in the first round were forwarded to Professor Mariya Borisovna Kataeva at the A.S. Pushkin Institute in Moscow for the second round of judging.

Results of the second round of judging are reported below. All students whose essays were sent to Moscow will receive certificates. In addition, gold medalists in the second round of judging will also receive commemorative pins. Congratulations to these talented students and their remarkable and dedicated teachers.

SCHOOL	TEACHER	STUDENT
ADVANCED GOLD		
Anglo-American School of Moscow	Nina Nazarenko	Alexandra Burgess
Bellaire High School, TX	Elizabeth McLendon	Irina Didenko
Buckingham, Browne, and Nichols, MA	Joshua Walker	John Flahive Josiah Siegel
By the Onion Sea, IL	Julia Kriventsova Denne	Celia Metzger Amelia Parkes
E. R. Murrow HS, NY	Yuliya Garmil	Aiaksnadra Kaplan

		Aleksandr Li Sonam Nematullah
Friends School of Baltimore, MD	Elizabeth Lee Roby	Josh Brooks Kyle Spawn
Illinois Math & Science, IL	Paavo Husen	Austin Choi Gregory Johnson Rebecca Lisk John Messina Colin O'Reilly
Shaker HS, NY	Anna Shkaf	Suzanna Diehl Claire Turner
St. Louis University HS, MO	Robert Chura	Matthew Quinlivan
West HS, AK	Elena Kostenko-Farkas	Janpal LaChapelle
	ADVANCED SILVER	
Friends School of Baltimore, MD	Elizabeth Lee Roby	Jonathan Keegan
Glastonbury HS, CT	Jan Eklund	Sophia Ladyzhets
Illinois Math & Science, IL	Paavo Husen	Eve Adami Daniel Curtis
St. Louis University HS, MO	Robert Chura	Daniel Sitek Salvatore Vitellaro
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology, VA	Betsy Sandstrom	Phineas Ulmishek- Andersson Mira Wroblewski
	ADVANCED BRONZE	
Anglo-American School of Moscow	Nina Nazarenko	Jessica Portnoy
Friends School of Baltimore, MD	Elizabeth Lee Roby	Gwen Comfort
West HS, AK	Elena Kostenko-Farkas	Molly Becia Cassandra Gronning William Lee

ADVANCED HERITAGE GOLD

Anglo-American School of Moscow	Nina Nazarenko	Kristina Zabelin
Bellaire High School, TX	Elizabeth McLendon	Marina Sharina Arkadi Zhanov
By the Onion Sea, IL	Julia Kriventsova Denne	Daria Chudnovsky Katherine Edwards Vera Kotelnikova Sofiya Kyrlyuk Julia Schroeter
E. R. Murrow HS, NY	Yuliya Garmil	Zarina Ilkanayeva
Newton South HS, MA	Jill Christensen	Joseph Vedensky
Russian School Olympus	Lidia Krasnov	Alexandra Alexeeva
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology, VA	Betsy Sandstrom	Alexey Didenkov
West HS, AK	Elena Kostenko-Farkas	Daniil Kern Maria Kling Kamilla Rakhimova

ADVANCED HERITAGE SILVER

Glastonbury HS, CT	Jan Eklund	Sasha Marccone
Langley HS, VA	Valentin Cukierman	Victoria Kartseva Andrey Smiryagin
Newton South HS, MA	Jill Christensen	Gregory Basistiy Maria Kuznetsova
West HS, AK	Elena Kostenko-Farkas	Anastasia Erickson

ADVANCED HERITAGE BRONZE

Langley HS, VA	Valentin Cukierman	Ignat Miagkov
West HS, AK	Elena Kostenko-Farkas	Katerina DeVassie Nicole Evans

NATIVE SPEAKER GOLD

Anglo-American School of Moscow Nina Nazarenko

Eva Buryakovsky
Daniel Golebiowsky
Nikolai Sparrow
Tatyana Tabakova
Alexandra Webb
Galina Yushvaeva
Maria Yushvaeva

Bellaire HS, TX

Elizabeth McLendon

Alessandra
Molchanova

By the Onion Sea, IL

Julia Kriventsova Denne

Illia Svirinovskiy

West HS, AK

Elena Kostenko-Farkas

Alexandra Mefodieva

NATIVE SPEAKER SILVER

Russian Kids Club

Ilonja Tombu

Alisa Majorova
Nicolette Tombu

--Evgeny Dengub, Paavo Husen, and John Rook, Co-Chairs of the 2016 NREC