



a division of the American Councils for International Education

American Council of Teachers of Russian
*National Russian
 Essay Contest*

ACTR 36th National Russian Essay Contest

As was reported in the Winter ACTR Letter, 1,099 high school students wrote essays in the 36th Annual ACTR National Russian Essay Contest on the topic: «Почему мы учим русский язык»? Judges received coded essays in 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 Czczulin, Goucher College, MD
- Olga Gotta, Whitby School, CT
- Jill Lederman, Berkshire Country Day School, MA
- Lisa Steffen, State University of New York at Brockport, NY
- Mara Sukholutskaya, East Central Oklahoma University, OK
- Marina Sweany, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
- Bozena Szulc, Linden Hills High School, NJ
- Dawn Stuart Weinraub, Emma Willard School (emerita), NY
- 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	56	106	137	81	7	387
Beginner Heritage	8	7	7	3	0	25
Intermediate	49	93	100	51	3	296
Intermediate Heritage	19	24	17	2	1	63
Advanced	40	63	75	40	2	220
Advanced Heritage	24	18	29	3	1	75
Native Speaker	16	12	5	0	0	33
Total	212	323	370	180	14	1,099

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- Phillip Stosberg, Co-Chair, Pritzker College Prep, 4131 W. Cortland Street, Chicago, IL 60639
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In April participating teachers will receive 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, 36th NATIONAL RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST
(Teacher names in bold)

- Anglo-American School of Moscow - **Nina Nazarenko**: Qiyuan Cui (A), Peter Godfrey (I), Mia Tilman (I), Eva Buryakovsky (NS), Daniel Golebiowski (NS), Michael Hadjistyllis (NS), Tatyana Tabakova (NS), Alexandra Webb (NS), Galina Yushvaeva (NS), Maria Yushvaeva (NS)
- Baltimore International Academy, MD - **Inga Webster**: Abigail Bobbit (B), Tatum Green (B), Garland Parvizi (B), Oluwakemi Soldipo (B)
- Bellaire Language Academy, TX - **Elizabeth McLendon**: Maria Sharina (AH), Danila Kuptcov (NS)
- Bruriah High School, NJ - **Nina Vaykhanskaya**: Chaya Stanislavsky (BH)
- Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School, MA - **Joshua Walker**: Julie Klingenstein (B), Aaron Rasin (B), Elizabeth Savage (B), Maia Cullen (I), Lauren Yun (I)
- By the Onion Sea, IL - **Julia Kriventsova Denne**: Nicholas Millan (A), Daria Chudnovsky (AH), Katherine Edwards (AH), Julia Schroeter (AH), Elizabeth DeMauro (B), Anika Walukas (B), Samuel Polyakov (IH), Illia Svirinovskyi (NS)
- C. D. Hylton High School, VA - **Paul Alan Rischard**: Alexander Selenskikh
- Central High School, TN - **Brooke Ballenger**: Amal Altareb (A), Audrey Firrone (A), Hattie Green (B)
- Cherokee High School, NJ - **Marian Barnum**: Waverly Pross (B), Gavin Ritter (B), Maria Kondratenko (BH), Stephanie Contino (I), Lauren Fowler (I), Elisabeth Nikolau (IH), Katherine Nikolau (IH)
- E.R. Murrow High School, NY - **Yuliya Garmil**: Dildora Alimukhamedova (AH), Julia Chekmenyova (AH), Natalia Musalyants (AH), Laura Shapranova (AH), Elizaveta Vedernikova (AH), Thalia Suleymanov (BH), Ekaterina Naumova (IH), Jonathan Rakhaminov (IH), Anastasiya Shyla (IH), Sofya Blinova (NS), Kseniia Blokhina (NS), Alina Shevtsova (NS), Olga Zimina (NS)
- Friends School, MD - **Lee Roby**: Katrina Brazhnikov (A), McKenna Klausner (A), Emma Scherer (A), Joseph Badros (B), Amina West (B), Mary Charlotte Mortimer (I)
- George Washington High School, PA - **Emma Reznik**: Yuliya Soroka (NS), Kateriyana Sulima (NS)
- Glastonbury High School, CT - **Jan Eklund**: Ali Brady (A), Mariam Coulibaly (A), Katrina Cubanski (A), Emily Geaslin (A), Eric Grin (A), Alicia Haynes (A), Courtney

- Luker (A), Jessica Ramsay (B), Patrick Breen (I), Larisa Esposito (I), Zoe Fiano (I), Lilly Horrigan (I), Connor Moynihan (I), Ashley Pizzo (I)
- Heritage High School, TX - **Svetlana Spencer**: Shanelle Huff (B)
 - Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IL - **Paavo Husen**: Lauren Etzkorn (A), Irena Gao (A), Sonya Gupta (A), Yuzhao Lin (A), Robert Luo (A), Aimee Van den Berg (A), Amanda Wang (A), Gary Yang (A), Koyena De (I), Rebecca Ellington (I), Severance Graham (I), Lorenzo Ledesma (I), Miron Liu (I), Timothy Mou (I), Olivia Shi (I), Daniel Soto (I), Mackenzie Valent (I), Andrew Wiedenmann (I), Kristin Wolford (I)
 - Langley High School, VA - **Valentin Cukierman**: Megan Carlon (A), Zach Lesan (A), Jan Moran (A), Abigail Pereira (A), Victoria Kartseva (AH), Mary Kurbanov (AH), Danila Palamarchuk (AH), John Bush (B), Rachel Lesan (B), Eliza Seigel (B), Alexandra Trumbell (B), John West (B), John Bennet (I), Tyler Chung (I), Taylor Daniels (I), Chloe Edgington (I), Grace Gent (I), Nicolle Hendzel (I), Julia Vaichekauskas (I), Kai Whipple (I), Stanislava Datskovska (IH), Mathew Shakula (IH), Jane Smyly (IH)
 - Lexington High School, SC - **Jessica Latham**: Paul Kim (B)
 - Newton South High School, MA - **Jill Christensen**: Ilya Rudyak (AH)
 - Pritzker College Prep, IL - **Phillip Stosberg**: Lorena Cano (B), Anthony Carreno (B), Adrian Chavez (B), Alexander Correa (B), Sandy Cortez (B), Enrique Delgado (B), Whitney Jani (B), Mineralda Landa (B), Abril Pereznegron (B), Lyxzandrea Roldan (B), Josue Saldivar (B), Nadia Segura (B), David Soto (B), Diana Tello (B)
 - Ranney School, NJ - **Francisco Picon**: Laura Lehrfeld (I)
 - Roland Park Country School, MD - **Elisa Frost**: Margaux Miller (B), Quincy Sugiuchi (I)
 - Russian Language School Skyku Net, CA - **Lyudmila Andreyeva**: Daria Balashova (AH), Mikhail Studenkov (AH), Kristina Dorofeev (IH), Yaroslava Levshakov (IH), Sasha Prostota (IH), Adam Shpolyansky (IH), Yasha Shur (IH)
 - Russian School Olympus, DC - **Lidia Krasnov**: Isabella Salvalaggio (A), Renata Gabdrahmanova (AH), Anya Weiss (AH), Irina Clark (B), Natalia Behlin (IH), Zlata Bobykina (IH)
 - San Diego Russian School, CA - **Natalia Abramova**: Nadya Gorelova (AH), Joseph Kalyuzhny (AH),
 - Shaker High School, NY - **Anna Shkaf**: Rebecca Hyatt (A), Tiffany Liu (A), Elizabeth Volynsky-Lauzon (AH), Kendall Schilling (B), Leona Dumskiy (BH)
 - Sparta High School, NJ - **William E. Brennan**: Jessica Longstreth (A), Zoe Merold (A), Casey Senatore (A), Lauren Groff (I)
 - St. Louis University High School, MO - **Robert Chura**: Matthew Rauschenbach (A), Matthew Friedrichs (B), Christopher Hartung (B)
 - Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **John Callahan**: Taly Nudelman (BH), Elizabeth Tsidulko (BH), Ellie Vasserman (BH)
 - Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Katya Ratushnyuk**: Daiane Chen (B), Tammy Dong (B), Kate Feder (B), Jing Ping Lian (B), Gordon Liang (B), Rianna

Pineda (B), Iandra Ramos (B), Ya Yin Ruan (B), Acewin Tam (B), Lukasz Asztemborski (I), Christina Qoku (I)

- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Elena Sokolovski**: Ariel Liberchuk (AH)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Nataliya Ushakova**: Merrick Eng (A), Yerim Lee (I), Jialin Ma (I), Justine Molinari (I), Jenna Tsvayg (I), Ekaterina Bushueva (NS)
- Syosset High School, NY - **Olga Varkonyi**: Mathew Chvasta (I), Jasmine Li (I)
- Tallwood High School, VA - **Ludmila Yuzhbabenko**: Sydney C. Burson (B)
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, VA - **Betsy Sandstrom**: Claire Fan (A), Jeffrey Gerber (B), Neeyanth Kopparapu (B), Anushka Molugu (B), Siona Prasad (I)
- Thunder Mountain High School, AK - **Janna Lelechuk**: Alexander Wehe (B)
- Vineland High School, NJ - **Vlada Jackson**: Trinitee Walker (I)
- Walnut Hills High School, OH - **Johanka Hart-Tompkins**: Edgar Byers (B), Henry Schneider (B), Nikita Veystman (BH), Roya Franseth (I), Naomi Stoner (I), Phillip Kogan (IH)
- Walt Whitman High School, MD - **Michelle Quackenbush**: Anton Rabinovich (AH)
- West High School, AK - **Elena Kostenko-Farkas**: Kerrigan Beagley (A), Molly Becia (A), Janpal LaChapelle (A), Aubrey LeClair (A), William Lee (A), Vladimir Artemyev (AH), Daniil Kern (AH), Lily Amore (I), Savannah Lee (I), Lubava Wessels (IH), Daria Wilcox (IH)

SECOND ROUND OF THE 36th 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 in March to Professor Liliya Leonidovna Vokhmina at the A.S. Pushkin Institute in Moscow for the second round of judging.

Results of the Moscow round of judging will be reported as soon as they are available. 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.

Paavo Husen, John Rook, and Phillip Stosberg
Co-Chairs of the 2017 NREC