

ACTR 37th National Russian Essay Contest First and Second Round Results

The ACTR National Russian Essay Contest (NREC) provides high school and middle school students the opportunity to demonstrate their writing proficiency in Russian in a meaningful context. This year 1,193 traditional learners, heritage learners, and native speakers, who represent 44 schools and 53 teachers in 17 states and the District of Columbia, wrote essays on the topic «Свободное время» in a two-hour period during the week of November 12-16. The NREC consists of two rounds.

New participating schools and teachers in the contest this year included: C. D. Hylton High School (VA), Maria Goebert; Central High School (MD), Danine Falcon; Langley High School (VA), Nazelie Nersesian; Noble Academy (IL), Thomas Tabatowski; Russian School House (MD), Lidia Krasnov; Russian School “Olympus” (DC), Nathalie McGregor; San Diego Russian School (CA), Maria Ezhevskaya; Shaker High School (NY), Sara Detmer; Sparta High School (NJ), Eric Hood; The Thinkers Cottage (TX), Carrie Hoke; Thunder Mountain High School (AK), Svetlana Filkova; West Anchorage High School (AK), Yelena Reep.

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

Anna Czczulin, Goucher College, MD

Olga Gotta, Whitby School, CT

Elena Kostenko-Farkas, Anchorage West High School (emerita), AK

Jill Lederman, Berkshire Country Day School, MA

Lisa Steffen, State University of New York at Brockport, NY

Mara Sukholutskaya, East Central Oklahoma University, OK

Bozena Szulc, Linden Hills High School, NJ

Dawn Stuart Weinraub, Emma Willard School (emerita), NY

Evgenia 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 37th Annual ACTR National Russian Essay Contest.

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Honorable Mention	No Award	Total
Beginner	89	123	158	114	2	486
Beginner Heritage	12	9	9	7	0	37
Intermediate	48	74	105	64	1	292
Intermediate Heritage	32	36	18	5	0	91
Advanced	32	58	71	35	0	196
Advanced Heritage	19	16	8	8	0	51
Native Speaker	17	13	6	4	0	40
Total	249	329	375	237	3	1,193

Participating teachers received first round NREC results, certificates, and medals for the contest at the beginning of April.

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

FIRST ROUND GOLD MEDAL ESSAYISTS, 37th NATIONAL RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

(Teacher names in bold)

- Anglo-American School of Moscow - **Nina Nazarenko**: Emily Akverdev (A), Aamina Choudhry (A), Maria Costa (NS), Daniel Golebiowski (NS), Emil Golebiowski (NS), Paul Mnatsakanov (NS), Alexandra Spiridonova (NS), Maria Yushvaeva (NS)
- Baltimore International Academy, MD - **Inga Webster**: Sydnie McClain (B), Alaya Mitchell (B)
- Bellaire Language Academy, TX - **Elizabeth McLendon**: Aleksandra Molchanova (NS)
- Bruriah High School, NJ - **Nina Vaykhanskaya**: Abigail Ezra (B), Kayla Miodownik (B), Sara Shuman (B)
- Buckingham, Browne and Nichols School, MA - **Joshua Walker**: Catarina Buchatskiy (AH), Henry Fine (B), Matthew Fitzgerald (B), Andrei Buchatskiy (BH), Julie Klingenstein (I), Julia Lang (I), Ryan Loughran (I)
- By the Onion Sea, IL - **Julia Kriventsova Denne**: Michael Klyachman (AH), Natalia Kozintseva (AH), Julia Schroeter (AH), Leah Ashby (B), Jonah Brandenburgh (B), Emery Morgan (B), Annika Walukas (I), Samuel Polyakov (IH), Illia Svirinovskyi (NS), Iuliana Tingaeva (NS)
- C. D. Hylton High School, VA - **Maria Goebert**: Katie Le (B)
- Central High School, MD - **Danine Falcon**: Amaya Horace (I)
- Cherokee High School, NJ - **Marian Barnum**: Katherine Nikolau (AH), Erin Matthews (B)
- E.R. Murrow High School, NY - **Yuliya Garmil**: Tumaray Akikatkyzy (AH), Alisa Dobrzhanskaya (AH), Zarah Greyser (IH), Ekaterina Naumova (NS), Sirahei Nezhavets (NS), Mariia Onokhina (NS)
- Friends School, MD - **Elizabeth Lee Roby**: Ryan Hardy (A), Alex Prichett (A), Emma Scherer (A), Amar Chhetri (B), Margaret Valle (B), Micah Neff-McGready (I), Annie Xenakis (I)
- George Washington High School, PA - **Emma Reznik**: Nikita Pryanichnikov (IH), Mariya Sulima (IH), Andzhur Terminkeev (IH), Alina Spas (NS), Kateriyana Sulima (NS)
- Glastonbury High School, CT - **Jan Eklund**: Alison Brady (A), Larisa Esposito (A), Eric Grin (A), Lilly Horrigan (A), Connor Moynihan (A), Ashley Pizzo (A), Will Zeppieri (A), Patrick Breen (I), Francesco Ossino (I), Jessica Ramsey (I)
- Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IL - **Paavo Husen**: Justin Izaguirre (A), Renzo Ledesma (A), Walter Marsh (A), Timothy Mou (A), Olivia Shi (A), Daniel Soto (A), Aidan Steineman (A), Mackenzie Valent (A), Kristin Wolford (A), Mohamed Almousawi (I), Grace Federici (I), Emily Gonda (I), Maximillian Hellrung (I), Jerry Hong (I), Isabella Huynh-Pham (I), Jacob Levine (I), Lily Levrault (I), Rylie Meek (I), Roman Putnam (I), Ryan Talusan (I), Angela Wang (I)
- Langley High School, VA - **Valentin Cukierman**: Chloe Edgington (A), Mathew Shakula (AH), Daniel Veretenov (AH), Alikhan Turmakhanov (IH)

- Langley High School, VA - **Nazellie Nersesian**: Arielle Lam (B), Johnconard Racich (B), Alexander Somogui (B), Sophie Spano (B)
- Lexington High School, SC - **Jessica Kelly**: Emily Craigmyle (B), Jaci Fleming (B), Jacqueline Patrick (B), Daniel Schlies (B)
- Linden High School, VA - **Bozena Szulc**: Anna Kanolash (BH), Krystyna Sul (BH), Juliia Sul (IH)
- Pritzker College Prep, IL - **Phillip Stosberg**: Arely Alvarez (B), Amaris Castro (B), Abriel Cortez (B), Daniel Cruz (B), Victor Dejesus (B), Angel Delarosa (B), Juleidy Felix (B), Angelica Finnely (B), Ximena Flores (B), Brisa Garcia (B), Diana Gomez (B), Johana Gutierrez (B), Ruben Guzman (B), Dania Herrera (B), Josines Martinez (B), Evelyn Montoya (B), Jose Ramirez (B), Keyla Romero (B), Manuel Ruvalcaba (B), Kelvin Salgado (B), Jasmine Santana (B), Samantha Santiago (B), Carolina Santos (B), Libny Solares (B), Francisco Villalobos (B)
- Russian Kids Club, CA - **Ilona Tombu**: Dasha Shevchenko (AH), Michelle Tombu (AH), Nicolette Tombu (AH)
- Russian Language School Skyku Net, CA - **Lyudmila Andreyeva**: Cristina Dorofeev (IH), Veronika Iamanova (IH), Dasha Kiryashov (IH), Alexandra Kletskov (IH), Iaroslava Levshakova (IH), Varvara Levshakova (IH), Vassili McAnaney (IH), Diana Petrenko (IH), Mikhail Pronin (IH), Alexandra Prostota (IH), Polina Runov (IH), Yael Shpits (IH), Yanis Shpits (IH), Adam Shpolyansky (IH), Yakov Shur (IH), Nikita Cheblov (IH)
- Russian School House, MD - **Lidia Krasnov**: Nicholai Egorov (AH)
- Russian School Olympus, DC - **Nathalie McGregor**: Dasha Beylin (BH), Kristina Kuzmenko (BH), Natalie Beylin (AH), Arina Shkolnik (IH)
- San Diego Russian School, CA - **Natalia Abramova**: Yuri Buchradze (AH), Nadya Gorelova (AH), Joseph Kalyuzhny (AH), Sofia Lindstrom (I), Sophia Kalyuzhny (IH)
- Shaker High School, NY - **Anna Shkaf**: Robert Kang (A), Alexa Labella (B), Emma Testa (B), Alisa Anufrieva (I), Adam Rocznik (I)
- Smith Middle School, CT - **John R. Rook**: Allison Desmarais (B), Liam Doyle (B), Maddison Edwards (B), Thomas Fahey (B), Lindsay Fritz (B), Elise Grin (B), Alyssa Healy (B), Olivia Sainsbury (B), Brooke Sowka (B)
- Sparta High School, NJ - **William E. Brennan**: Marguerite Bysse (I)
- Sparta High School, NJ - **Eric Hood**: Lauren Groff (A), Alexander Papandrikos (A), Karthik Selvaraj (A)
- St. Louis University High School, MO - **Robert Chura**: Benjamin Andrews (I)
- St. Paul Central High School, MN - **Oksana Cox**: Mikhailo Psarov (NS)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **John Callahan**: Mila Karimov (BH), Nicole Reyblat (BH)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Olga Dobry**: Lovermerry Ilin (B), Justin Shnayder (BH), Elizabeth Shvarts (BH)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Veronika Maslyukova**: George Baslous (B), Willie Chen (B), Lacey Rose Delucia (B), Angel Lee (B), Kelly Li (B), Ashley Luo (B), Melanie Perricone (B), Zack Rimshnick (B), Alvin Xiao (B), Nicole Varghese (B)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Katya Ratushnyuk**: Kelly Chan (I), Tammy Dong (I), Christine Li (I), Acewin Tam (I), Selena Zhong (I)
- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Elena Sokolovski**: Zuting Chen (I), Valerie Chlafer (IH), Simone Livit (IH), Taly Nudelman (IH), Ellie Vaserman (IH),

- Staten Island Technical High School, NY - **Nataliya Ushakova**: Ze Jun Li (A), Andrew Bishay (B), Karen Choi (B), Jasky Kareem (B), Nicholas Lefaso (B), Angelina Kostanian (BH), Gregory Lipkovich (BH), Mitchell Zaliznyak (BH), Alyssa Arcenal (I), Henry Cao (I), Kate Feder (I), Michelle Ma (I), Cornelia Murja (I), Rianna Camille Pineda (I), Andrei Klepatch (IH), Beata Verkhavets (IH), Ekaterina Bushueva (NS)
- Tallwood High School, VA - **Ludmila Yuzhbabenko**: Richard Lopez (B), Kieran M. Ryan (B)
- Tamarac High School, NY - **Angelique Wright**: Balee Dunham (B)
- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, VA - **Betsy Sandstrom**: Sabria Kazmi (A), Alexander Suh (A), Ramya Susarla (A), Timothy Palamarchuk (AH), Samyutha Belde (B), Bella Chung (B), Sophia Evanisko (B), Maria Izzi (B), Eli Kaufman (B), Aleesha Khurram (B), Rishi Lahoti (B), Yana Patel (B), Nima Rohani (B), Matthew Rosenthal (B), Michael Gibson (I), Brandon Kim (I), Neeyanth Kopparapu (I), Rash Yao (I),
- Thunder Mountain High School, AK - **Svetlana Filkova**: Valeria Jimmerson (B)
- Walnut Hills High School, OH - **Johanka Hart-Tompkins**: Selima Aousheva (B), Zoe Waddle (B), Edgar Byers (I), Caroline Dillard (I)
- West Anchorage High School, AK - **Yelena Reep**: Aubrey Leclair (A), Erin Stapley (A), Valentina Artemyeva (AH), Daria Wilcox (AH), Lauren Biggs (I), Athena Clendaniel (I), Kaitlyn Hanson (I), Alexandra Guerra (IH)
- Winston Churchill High School, MD - **Natalia Kolodina**: Simon Petrosyan (NS)

SECOND ROUND GOLD MEDAL ESSAYISTS, 37th NATIONAL RUSSIAN ESSAY CONTEST

Essays 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. Second round results were received on April 1. Below are excerpts from the letter Mariya Borisovna sent with the second round results.

Прочитала все работы (как всегда, с удовольствием), высылаю оценки.

В этом году сочинения порадовали не только содержанием, - в большинстве своем у них традиционно хороший синтаксис, хорошая лексика и (что особенно приятно) неплохая грамматика. В этом году порадовала группа А использованием в своих текстах фразеологизмов ("как две капли воды", "что за роза без шипов", "я не открываю Америку, когда говорю, что чем больше друзей, тем веселее" или "природа внешностью не обделила").

Раскрывая тему, авторы рассказывали о том, как проводят свободное время, занимаясь спортом или программированием, играя в компьютерные игры или как они читают любимые книги, слушают любимые группы, смотрят любимые фильмы, а также танцуют, играют на любимых инструментах, вместе с семьей или с друзьями ходят в рестораны и кафе или готовят самостоятельно еду.

Показались интересными и те работы, в которых авторы объясняли свое понимание "свободного времени" и отношение к нему.

В заключение, хотела бы поблагодарить всех авторов, их преподавателей и организаторов этого конкурса за интерес и любовь к русскому языку. Надеюсь, это поможет нам лучше понимать друг друга и вместе решать многие проблемы.

*С искренним уважением
Катаева Мария Борисовна.*

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	Emily Akverdev Aamina Choudhry
Friends School of Baltimore, MD	Elizabeth Lee Roby	Ryan Hardy Emma Scherer
Glastonbury HS, CT	Jan Eklund	Larisa Esposito Eric Grin Connor Moynihan Ashley Pizzo
Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, IL	Paavo Husen	Justin Izaguirre Renzo Ledesma Walter Marsh Timothy Mou Olivia Shi Daniel Soto Aidan Steineman Mackenzie Valent Kristin Wolford
Langley HS, VA	Valentin Cukierman	Chloe Edgington
Shaker HS, NY	Anna Shkaf	Robert Kang
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology, VA	Betsy Sandstrom	Sabria Kazmi Alexander Suh Ramya Susarla

ADVANCED SILVER

Friends School of Baltimore, MD	Elizabeth Lee Roby	Alex Prichett
Glastonbury HS, CT	Jan Eklund	Alison Brady Lilly Horrigan Will Zeppieri
Sparta HS, NJ	Eric Hood	Lauren Groff Alexander Papandrikos Karthik Selvaraj
Staten Island Technical HS, NY	Nataliya Ushakova	Ze Jun Li
West Anchorage HS, AK	Yelena Reep	Aubrey Leclair Erin Stapley

ADVANCED HERITAGE GOLD

By the Onion Sea, IL	Julia Kriventsova Denne	Michael Klyachman Natalia Kozintseva Julia Schroeter
Cherokee HS, NJ	Marian Barnum	Katherine Nikolau
E. R. Murrow HS, NY	Yuliya Garmil	Tumaray Akitkatkyzy Alisa Dobrzhanskaya
Langley HS, VA	Valentin Cukierman	Matthew Shakula
Russian Kids Club	Ilona Tombu	Dasha Shevchenko Michelle Tombu Nicolette Tombu
Russian School House	Lidia Krasnov	Nicholai Egorov
San Diego Russian School	Maria Ezhevskaya	Yuri Buchradze Nadya Gorelova Joseph Kalyuzhny
Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology, VA	Betsy Sandstrom	Timothy Palamarchuk
West Anchorage HS, AK	Yelena Reep	Valentina Artemyeva Daria Wilcox

ADVANCED HERITAGE SILVER

Buckingham, Browne & Nichols,	Joshua Walker	Catarina Buchatskiy
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Langley HS, VA

Valentin Cukierman

Daniel Veretenov

NATIVE SPEAKER GOLD

Anglo-American School of Moscow

Nina Nazarenko

Maria Costa

Daniel Golebiowski

Emil Golebiowski

Paul Mnatsakanov

Alexandra Spiridonva

Maria Yushvaeva

Bellaire HS, TX

Elizabeth McLendon

Aleksandra Molchanova

By the Onion Sea, IL

Julia Kriventsova Denne

Illia Svirinovskyi

Iuliana Tingaeva

E. R. Murrow HS, NY

Yuliya Garmil

Ekaterina Naumova

Sirahei Nezhavets

Mariia Onokhina

George Washington HS, MD

Emma Reznik

Alina Spas

Russian Language School Skyku Net,
CA

Lyudmila Andreyeva

Nikita Cheblov

St. Paul Central HS, MN

Oksana Cox

Mykhailo Psarov

Staten Island Technical HS, NY

Nataliya Ushakova

Ekaterina Bushueva

Anchorage West HS, AK

Yelena ReepElena

Simon Petrosyan

--Paavo Husen, John Rook, Phillip Stosberg, Co-Chairs of the 2018 NREC