

Student competition

Guideline for video projects

Centropa Jewish Network (CJN) announces a competition for students between 1-12th grade! This is an opportunity for students to discover and share their experiences of Jewish life and culture in their countries. Students in Jewish schools in the US, Europe and Israel are invited to compete in any of the three categories, and - by sharing their own projects - connect and learn from each other.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions will be divided into 2 groups for judging:

- Grades 1-8
- Grades 9-12

For each category there will be one winner and one runner up selected per age group.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to enter the Centropa Student Competition, (My Community and Cooking Categories) an entrant must be Jewish and/or be enrolled in a private or public elementary or secondary Jewish school (grades K-12) in Europe, Israel or the United States.

COMPETITION PERIOD:

The competition begins on October 26th, 2024 and ends on April 26th, 2025.

Dates are subject to change by the Centropa team for any unavoidable occurrence.

CATEGORIES:

<p style="text-align: center;">My Community</p>	<p>Synagogues, schools, communities – they didn’t just appear out of nowhere. People created and built them - people who had visions of what they wanted for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren.</p> <p>In this project, you have the opportunity to tell various stories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The story of your town’s Jewish history (possibly by creating a virtual walking tour) 2. The story of your local synagogue 3. The story of your Jewish school 4. The story of your local Jewish community, or a famous person from the community 5. The story of any other famous Jewish building or community in your town. <p>You will research the historical context and show how these communities and places were shaped during history.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Family History</p>	<p>Your family story is history. The events of the 20th and 21st centuries shaped your family’s story and this project will help you discover how. Where you live, the culture you identify with, who you are in the world – the events of the past century contributed to each of these. Through this project you will share your story with students in other countries, and learn about their Jewish stories as well.</p> <p>In this project, each student will have the following options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. research either his or her own family history; 2. research the family story of a chosen Jewish individual from the Centropa database. <p>For this film project you should tell the story of a chosen Jewish person through words, images (moving or still) and music. You will research the historical context and show how that person was shaped by those historical events.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Virtual Jewish Cookbook</p>	<p>As in many cultures, food is an important part of Jewish life and celebrations. It is not only something that we eat to stay alive; it is the representation of our cultural identity, filled with meaning, inherited from generation to generation.</p> <p>In this cross-cultural cookbook project, you should find a traditional Jewish recipe important to your family or community,</p>

	research it, make the dish (taste it, of course!), and put together a visual presentation about the entire process and what you learned along the way. By participating in the Jewish Cookbook competition, you will share your recipes with students from other countries and learn about Jewish food traditions in those countries.
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REQUIREMENTS:

All materials submitted to the competition must meet the following criteria. Please note that the videos not meeting these criteria will not be accepted.

- The project must be a visual presentation of a topic: a video, PowerPoint, or Prezi.
- Students have to create the videos on their own. They might get professional support, but the final film has to be their own work solely. Students can work individually or in groups, where every student is responsible for a different task according to their interests and skills.
- The final product should not be longer than 5 minutes, except for the Family History category, in which case the video can be 6 minutes long.
- All videos or presentations must have English subtitles. *Please add subtitles also when the narration is in English.* It'll help the non-native speakers to follow.
- To submit your videos, upload them to Youtube until the **26th of April, 2025**.

Step-by-step instructions: how to plan, organize and create the film

1. Look at good examples!

Watch [Centropa films](#) and look at last years' student competition [winners](#) and [runner ups](#) to have an idea about what a good short film looks like.

2. Find the Story

Which topic interests you the most? Decide on your topic and do a thorough research. Please make sure to provide accurate information and correct citing.

3. Collect materials for your film

You can collect family photographs and documents from libraries, museums and archives or from trusted websites. When using a photograph or document, always check for copyright permission! Additionally you can interview people through open-ended questions. When looking for pictures, we suggest to look at the archive of the [National Library of Israel](#) (NLI).

4. Create a storyboard & write the script for the film

What is a storyboard? It is the story you will tell – in words and in images. Next to each sentence you place the images that will appear on screen when you read that part of the script. Don't forget that the video should be in English AND/OR have English subtitles!

5. Upload & submit your video

1. Upload your video to Youtube
2. Write to Eszter Rozsa (rozsa@centropa.org) and send her the filled out '[CJN video competition info sheet](#)' until the **26th of April, 2025**.

Top tips for creating the perfect video

1. Hold camera horizontally: turn your phone sideways to get a wider angle
2. Use a tripod and put it down on a hard surface (table, chair) to make it steady
3. Don't zoom: zooming makes your shot really pixelated, if you want to get a closer shot just move closer
4. Download apps to change camera settings
5. Use Exposure and Focus Lock
6. Make sure to have enough light: use natural light or a lamp
7. Use an external microphone or sound recorder
8. Avoid noisy rooms, streets, and machines like fridges or air conditioning to have better audio quality

Click on this [short instructional video](#) made by students for students to get more tips!

Questions?

Contact Eszter Rózsa, CJN coordinator at rozsa@centropa.org