

Student competition

Guidelines for Video Projects

My Community	Synagogues, schools, communities – they didn’t just appear out of nowhere. People created and built them: people who had visions for themselves, their children, and their grandchildren. In this project, you have the opportunity to tell a variety of stories: • The story of your town’s Jewish history (for example, by creating a virtual walking tour) • The story of your local synagogue • The story of your Jewish school • The story of your local Jewish community, or a famous person from the community • The story of any other notable Jewish building or community in your town You will research the historical context and show how these communities and places were shaped over time.
Family History	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, and who you are in the world – all of these have been influenced by events of the past century. Through this project, you will share your story with students in other countries and learn about their Jewish stories as well. In this project, each student will have the following options: 1. Research their own family history; 2. Research the family story of a chosen Jewish individual from the Centropa database. For this film project, you should tell the story of a chosen Jewish person using words, images (moving or still), and music. You will

	research the historical context and show how that person was shaped by historical events.
Virtual Jewish Cookbook	As in many cultures, food is an important part of Jewish life and celebrations. It is not only something we eat to stay alive but also a representation of our cultural identity, full of meaning and passed down from generation to generation. In this cross-cultural cookbook project, you should select a traditional Jewish recipe that is important to your family or community, research it, prepare the dish (and taste it, of course!), and create a visual presentation documenting 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 their communities.

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 get an idea of what makes a strong short film.

2. Find the Story

Which topic interests you the most? Decide on your topic and conduct thorough research. Make sure to provide accurate information and correct citations.

3. Collect materials for your film

You can gather family photographs and documents from libraries, museums and archives or trusted websites. When using a photograph or document, always check for copyright permission. You may also interview people using open-ended questions.

4. Create a storyboard and write your script

What is a storyboard? It's the outline of your story – told through both words and images. Next to each sentence in your script, note the images that will appear on screen during that part of the narration.

Don't forget: the video should be **in English and/or include English subtitles!**

5. Submit your video

<https://www.centropa.org/en/forms/cjn-student-competition>

Top Tips for Creating the Perfect Video

1. Hold your camera horizontally: Turn your phone sideways to capture a wider angle.
2. Use a tripod: Place it on a stable surface (like a table or chair) to keep your shot steady.
3. Don't zoom: Zooming can make your footage pixelated. Instead, move closer to your subject for a clearer shot.
4. Download camera apps: These can help you adjust advanced settings for better control.
5. Use exposure and focus lock: This keeps your lighting and focus consistent throughout the shot.
6. Make sure you have enough light: Use natural light or a lamp for clear, well-lit footage.
7. Use an external microphone or sound recorder: This greatly improves sound quality.
8. Avoid noisy environments: Stay away from busy rooms, streets, or background noise from machines like fridges or air conditioners.

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