

Fourteenth Annual Literary Arts & Video Competition for Middle School & High School Students

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

A link to stream the documentary *Sister Rose's Passion* has been sent to every New Jersey public middle school and high school, private school and religious school. Teachers of students in grades **7–12** are asked to show the 30-minute film to their classes and announce the competition.

After they have watched the film, students will write an essay/poem or create a short video addressing this year's theme and answering one or more of the suggested questions below. The essay competition provides a great opportunity to provide education in keeping with the [New Jersey Mandate for Genocide and Holocaust Education](#).

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Theme: Exhibiting moral courage and standing up to injustice can change the world.

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but he must take it because conscience tells him it is right." —Martin Luther King, Jr.

Through her words and actions, Sister Rose Thering demonstrated great **moral courage**. This year's literary and visual arts competition provides an opportunity to show how, by exhibiting moral courage and standing up against injustice, one person can positively affect the world.

Think about a **relative or personal friend**, a **present or past public figure**, or a **character** you encountered in a literary work who demonstrated great moral courage in an effort to change the world in which he/she/they live/lived. Then, in your submission, answer the following questions:

- Describe the situation driving this person to exhibit moral courage and confront injustice.
- What *specific* actions has this person taken that would be considered morally courageous?
- Of these actions, which one(s) are similar to those taken by Sister Rose to confront injustice?
- How did this person deal with uncomfortable or dangerous reactions to his/her/their exhibition of moral courage?
- Why were you drawn to this person?

- What lessons have you learned from this person that can be applied to your own life?

NOTE TO CLASSROOM TEACHER: If a student decides to write about a public figure past or present, he/she/they will need to do some research about that person to provide specific details to answer the preceding questions.

If you submit an **essay**, it should be no more than 500 words. If you submit a **poem**, it must be entirely original and should be a minimum of 14 lines and a maximum of 30 lines.

If you submit a **video**, it should be a Public Service Announcement (PSA) 90–120 seconds long addressing this year’s theme and answering the questions listed above. Your charge is to create a short video to teach others how a morally courageous person can change the world.

The mission of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies is to advance the legacy of Sister Rose Thering by fostering understanding and cooperation among Jews, Christians and people of other religious traditions through advocacy and education. To this end, we are committed to absorbing the lessons of both the Holocaust and other acts of religious prejudice, teaching them through the educators who receive our scholarship aid.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. Ten (10) submissions—**essays, poems**—per grade level per school, with a maximum of forty (40) submissions per high school and twenty (20) per middle school. If a school submits more than ten (10) submissions for a given grade level, the submissions from that school’s grade level will be ineligible for consideration in the 2024 Essay Competition.
2. Five (5) **video** PSAs per grade level per school, for a maximum of 20 PSAs per high school and 10 per middle school. If a school submits more than five video PSAs for a given grade level, all video PSAs from that school’s grade level will become ineligible for consideration in the 2024 Competition.
3. Only classroom teachers can submit essays/poems/videos. Individual student submissions will not be considered for judging.
4. There are three ways to submit **essays and poems**:
 - a. **Preferred method:** register and upload essays at

www.shu.edu/SRTFEssay

b. Via **e-mail** to srtf@shu.edu

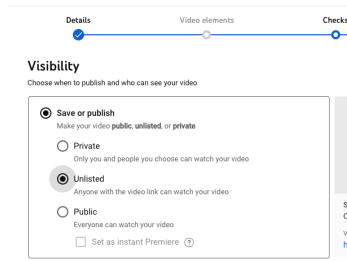
c. **Hardcopy** (must include essay, application and Student Release forms for each entry) mailed to

**Sister Rose Thering Fund Literary Arts & Video Competition
Seton Hall University
400 South Orange Ave.
South Orange, NJ 07079**

5. To submit your **video PSA**:

a. Upload your video PSA to YouTube.

b. When uploading, under "Visibility" set the video to "Unlisted"



c. If it is not possible for you to upload on YouTube, please contact srtf@shu.edu. We will do our best to accommodate you.

Include the link to your video on the online submission form at

www.shu.edu/SRTFVideo

d. Via e-mail to srtf@shu.edu

e. **Hardcopy** (must include video link, application and Student Release form for each entry) mailed to

**Sister Rose Thering Fund Literary & Visual Arts Competition
Seton Hall University
400 South Orange Ave.
South Orange, NJ 07079**

6. All submissions are due by **Friday, February 2, 2024**. The application and release forms must accompany all submissions.

ESSAY FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

1. All **essay** submissions must be typed in MLA 8 format, double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, with a header, listing the following:

Student's full name

Example: Joanne Anderson

Teacher's Name
High School Name
Grade level (7, 8, 9,10,11 or 12)

Mrs. Hunter
Northeast High School
Grade 9

2. Page number must be inserted 0.5 inches down from top of the page, on right, giving student's last name and page number; for example:
Anderson 1
3. Give the essay an original title. Center the title two spaces below the header.

HEADER SAMPLE:

Joanne Anderson
Mrs. Hunter
Northeast High School
Grade 9

Anderson 1

4. The essay must mention Sister Rose.
5. The length of the essay **must not exceed** five hundred (500) words.

POETRY FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

1. Poem must be entirely original. If quoting words spoken by the person featured, use quotation marks to set them off from your own words.
2. Give your poem an original title.
3. The poem should be between 14–30 lines in length.
4. The poem must mention Sister Rose.

See Essay Format Requirements 1-3 above, except that poems should be typed single space.

VIDEO FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

1. Your PSA should be 90–120 seconds in length. Videos longer than 120 seconds will be disqualified.
2. Production teams should consist of one, two or three students only, listed in the credits at the end of the video and indicating the responsibility of each student (e.g., camera, editor, script, director, lighting, etc.)
3. May include up to three actors, also listed in the credits at the end of the video.

4. Credits should also include name of school, name of classroom teacher/production advisor.
5. The PSA title must be included at the opening of the video.
6. The video must mention Sister Rose.
7. The video must incorporate a call to action for viewers.

FORMS

1. For an **essay or poem**, complete the Student Literary Arts Competition Application (page 7-8)
2. Complete the Student Release Form (page 9)
3. For a **video**, complete the Student Video Competition Application (page 10-11).
4. Complete the Student Release Form (page 12-13).
5. Return video PSA link, application and release form to the classroom teacher by the school's requested deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA: Students

1. Originality
2. Relevance to theme and Sister Rose's message in the documentary
3. Grammar, spelling and punctuation
4. Must mention Sister Rose

JUDGING CRITERIA: Teachers

1. Please read the student essays and poems with a keen eye for proper punctuation, grammar and spelling.
2. Please do not make corrections yourself; encourage the student to revise and edit the essay according to appropriate grammatical guidelines.

Essays will be judged according to student's grade level.

WINNER SELECTION AND NOTIFICATION

1. One (1) First Place winner will be selected in each category for each grade level. Video production teams will count as one winner in that grade.
2. One (1) Honorable Mention award will be made in each category for each grade level. Video production teams will count as one honorable mention in that grade.
3. Notification letters to winners will be sent out by **March 8, 2024**.

4. Winners are expected to attend the Celebration of Education Celebration, at Seton Hall University on **Sunday, April 14, 2024**; the families and teachers of winners are also invited to attend. **All RSVPs should be sent in by April 1, 2024.**

All essays and poems will be kept on file in the office of the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University and will not be returned to students. Seton Hall University reserves the right to distribute written works submitted for the contest via the University Website or other digital/interactive transmission.

Thank you for participating.
Best wishes to your school and students!

**SISTER ROSE THERING FUND STUDENT LITERARY ARTS & VIDEO
COMPETITION APPLICATION: ESSAY OR POEM**

DEADLINE: February 2, 2024

Student's Name _____
First Middle initial Last

Student's home address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Student's phone number (_____) _____

Name of School _____

School address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

School phone number (_____) _____

Name of teacher _____

Teacher E-mail Address _____

Student's year in school (circle one):

7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

All essays and poems will be kept on file in the office of the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University and will not be returned to students. Seton Hall University reserves the right to distribute written works submitted for the contest via the University Website or other digital/interactive transmission.

**RELEASE FORM FOR
SISTER ROSE THERING FUND STUDENT LITERARY ARTS & VIDEO
COMPETITION: ESSAY OR POEM**

I/We give our permission for the essay/poem entitled

Write the title above.

submitted to the Sister Rose Thering Fund Student Essay Competition sponsored by the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University, South Orange New Jersey, to be used in any future publications of the Fund.

Student name (printed)

Student signature

Parent/Guardian name (printed)

Parent/Guardian signature

Date _____

All essays and poems will be kept on file in the office of the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University and will not be returned to students. Seton Hall University reserves the right to distribute written works submitted for the contest via the University Website or other digital/interactive transmission.

Thank you.

Teacher E-mail Address _____

Student's year in school (circle one): 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th
12th

All video submissions will be kept on file in the office of the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University and will not be returned to students. Seton Hall University reserves the right to distribute written works submitted for the contest via the University Website or other digital/interactive transmission.

**RELEASE FORM FOR
SISTER ROSE THERING FUND STUDENT LITERARY ARTS & VIDEO
COMPETITION: VIDEO**

DEADLINE: February 2, 2024

I hereby grant Seton Hall University permission to the rights of my video submission, image, likeness and sound of my voice in its publications as my contribution to the Event listed below. I understand that my contribution may be recorded on audio or video tape or other media, digitized, edited, copied, exhibited, broadcast, published and distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. I understand that examples of my work and/or these recordings of me will be used exclusively for non-commercial, educational purposes, which may include, but are not limited to, distribution by any method and in any media, whether now existing or later created (including by digital or interactive media transmission), within or outside of the State of New Jersey for the duration of the media.

I understand that there will be no financial or other remuneration for use of my work and/or recordings, either for initial or subsequent transmission or playback, and I hereby release Seton Hall University from any liability resulting from or connected with the publication of such work. Permission is granted for the duration of the media. I further understand that my permission or consent may be rescinded; however, in order for the revocation of permission/consent to be effective, it must be made in writing and said revocation will not affect the publication or work that has already been produced. Seton Hall University may use my name, likeness, work, and/or bibliographical identification for publicizing and promoting the use of these recordings.

I represent that all materials used in my contribution to this Event are my own or are materials for which I have obtained all necessary permissions. I also represent that my contribution will not infringe any copyrights or any rights of others and will contain nothing defamatory or libelous.

**SISTER ROSE THERING FUND STUDENT LITERARY ARTS & VIDEO
COMPETITION SUBMISSION RELEASE:**

I/We give our permission for the video entitled “_____”
submitted to the Sister Rose Thering Fund Student Essay Competition
sponsored by the Sister Rose Thering Fund at Seton Hall University, South
Orange New Jersey, to be used for non-commercial, educational purposes,

distributed by any method and in any media, whether now existing or later created (including by digital or interactive media transmission); within or outside of the State of New Jersey for the duration of the media.

Personal Info

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Production Team Participants (Please identify roles, such as director, script, camera, lighting, etc.) and their parents must also sign this release:

Role in video production:

Participant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (If Under 18): _____

Student's year in school (circle one): 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th

All video PSAs entered for consideration will become property of the Sister Rose Thering Fund for Education in Jewish-Christian Studies and Seton Hall University. Entrants wishing to broadcast their work on any media platform must obtain written permission from the Sister Rose Thering Fund and Seton Hall University.

Thank you.