



From left to right: Berlin Holocaust Memorial, Tuol Sleng Museum, Rwanda Reconciliation, Srebrenica Memorial (Flickr Commons)

Pacific Lutheran University & the College of Liberal Studies welcome students to participate in the annual

Raphael Lemkin Essay Contest

GENOCIDE: What Does it Mean to You?

- ⦿ Through the efforts of alumnus and Regent Donald R. Morken and colleague Bruce Littman, PLU sponsors annual scholarships in honor of Raphael Lemkin. Lemkin coined the term “genocide” and labored for passage of the United Nations genocide convention, which outlaws destruction of races and groups. The Raphael Lemkin Trust, founded by Irving Young of Haifa, Israel, helps support prizes and scholarships. Currently offered at Yale Law School, Duke University Law School, Hamilton College and others, the prizes serve to inspire young people to reflect upon the issue of genocide and to inform them about Raphael Lemkin.
- ⦿ PLU invites currently registered students to write an essay on the topic of genocide. A panel of faculty members will judge the essays. The first-place essay writer will be awarded a \$750 prize; the second-place award will be \$250.
- ⦿ Essays should reflect Raphael Lemkin’s ideals and concerns to include such topics as the concept and definition of genocide, ethical and legal aspects of genocide and international law, prevention of genocide and enforcement of the genocide convention, historical incidents of genocide, current events and the issue of genocide or other appropriate essay topics discussed and negotiated between contestants and the faculty review committee prior to the final submission.
- ⦿ Essays must demonstrate that students have read the biographical sketch on Raphael Lemkin (available at: <https://www.plu.edu/holocaustconference/lemkin-lecture/about/>)
- ⦿ You may submit a draft of your essay, formatted as a Word document and sent electronically, to be reviewed, if you wish, no later than **Midnight, Friday, September 25, 2026**. Your paper will be critiqued, with constructive suggestions made. Your draft will be returned to you no later than **October 5, 2026**, for any revisions you choose to make.
- ⦿ Submit the final product no later than **Midnight, Friday October 9, 2026**. Format the essay in Word and send it electronically to Tracy Williamson, Assistant to the Dean, College of Liberal Studies - (williata@plu.edu).
- ⦿ The final submission must include a cover sheet, an abstract and the completed essay. The cover sheet is to include your name, your PLU I.D. #, a current mailing address, email address and telephone number. Format must follow these guidelines: the essay should be at least 7-10 pages in length, the pages should be numbered, double-spaced with margins 1” – 1.25”, with a font size of 12 point. The essay should have either footnotes or endnotes and those citations must be in either the Chicago Manual of Style or the MLA format.

All entrants will be invited to an awards ceremony, date and time to be announced.

***For additional information, contact Professor Beth Griech-Polelle:
Email: griechba@plu.edu***

Dedicated to the man who named "the crime with no name"