



## MARGOT STERN STROM INNOVATION GRANT

# THE 2017 MARGOT STERN STROM INNOVATION GRANTS

### WHAT ARE THE MARGOT STERN STROM INNOVATION GRANTS?

The Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grants were established to honor our founder and give middle and high-school educators in the Facing History Teaching Community the chance to bring their most innovative ideas to life in the classroom. Educators are invited to submit their ideas by filling out an application form and preparing a video, two minutes or less in length, describing their project. We provide funding through the grants to pilot the strongest projects that connect to Facing History's core themes.

### WHAT IS THE THEME THIS YEAR?

Now more than ever, we need to help students make sense of the world around them. Empathy can be an abstract concept, especially in the presence of so much divisiveness. Cognitive empathy—also known as “hard” empathy—requires us to use our full cognitive capacities to understand what someone else is thinking or feeling. It is also the only kind of empathy linked to taking future action. How will you make “hard” empathy a more tangible, concrete experience for young people in your classroom?

### HOW MANY GRANTS WILL BE AWARDED AND WHAT ARE THE AMOUNTS?

We will select **12 finalists to receive \$2,500 each** to implement their projects. Final projects will be submitted for review and **two finalists from among the 12 finalists will be selected to receive an additional \$2,500 in grant funding** to promote their project to teachers everywhere.

### WHAT'S THE TIMELINE?

The 2017 grants will officially open for submissions on **Monday, April 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. ET** and will close on **Friday, May 5, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. ET**. Applications must be submitted at <https://www.facinghistory.org/mss>. Twelve finalists will be announced on or around **Wednesday, May 31, 2017**. Final projects are due by **Friday, October 13, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. ET** and will be reviewed by a Facing History committee. Once all projects are reviewed, two finalists will be announced on or around **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**. These two finalists will work with Facing History to promote their projects to other teachers in **January 2018**.



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### HOW DO I APPLY?

Submissions open on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. ET. Submit your idea with these easy steps:

1. [Create an online profile](#) with Facing History and Ourselves by May 18, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. ET, if you don't already have one.
2. Design a project that addresses the theme above.
3. Prepare a video, two minutes or less in length, describing your project and how it could be replicated by other teachers. Be sure your video includes how your proposed project encourages students to be more intentional in their decision-making and civic engagement.
4. [Fill out the application and submit your video](#) by Friday, May 5, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. ET.

### WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Grants are open to middle and high-school educators in the US, UK and Canada (excluding Quebec). You must be part of the Facing History Teaching Community, defined as any teacher who has [created an online profile](#) through Facing History's website by May 18, 2017 at 9:00 p.m. ET. All participants must list valid contact information. Read the complete [official rules for the US and Canada](#). Please note, there are [separate rules for applicants in the UK](#).

### WHAT ARE THE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS?

Submissions must be entered on the application form at <https://www.facinghistory.org/mss> and must include a video that is two minutes or less in length. In your video, please make sure you are clearly seen and heard and give thought to what you'll say before recording.

### HOW WILL VIDEO SUBMISSIONS BE JUDGED?

Submissions will be judged on how well the project makes "hard" empathy a concrete experience for young people. You must also describe how your project can be replicated by other teachers and how it encourages students to be more intentional and informed in their decision-making and civic engagement. Judges will be looking for originality of ideas and strong connections to Facing History's core themes.

### WHO IS THE GRANT SUPPORTER?

The Margot Stern Strom Innovation Grants are made possible through the generous support of the Fialkow family.

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[Read](#) the complete contest rules for the US and Canada. For the UK, click [here](#).

Visit [www.facinghistory.org/mss](http://www.facinghistory.org/mss) for more information.



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Questions? Contact the Facing History team at [mssgrant@facinghistory.org](mailto:mssgrant@facinghistory.org).