WHAT IS THE WHITE ROSE ORGANIZATION?

The White Rose organization, including brother and sister Hans and Sophie Scholl, felt compelled to protest the frightening environment in which they lived and studied. Their protests took the form of essays published in leaflets that were distributed anonymously in Munich, and then later mailed to persons selected from the phone book. These essays challenged citizens to resist the Nazi policies and encouraged non-violent political dissent. The White Rose members knew that to be silent in the face of evil was to surrender to it, encourage it, and enable it to grow stronger. Thus, their movement united others to resist Nazi tyranny by striving to eradicate the “face of evil” before it destroyed more innocent lives. According to an exhibit on display at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., “Of all the groups in Germany that opposed Hitler’s dictatorship, only one, code-named ‘White Rose’, openly protested the Nazi genocide against the Jews.”

FOURTEENTH WHITE ROSE MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

The Tulsa Council for Holocaust Education’s Fourteenth Annual White Rose Memorial Essay Contest

For Middle, Jr. High, and High School Students

Submission deadline: Friday, April 1, 2022

2021-2022 ESSAY PROMPT:
Consider the following: Elie Wiesel once said, “Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.” This year’s essay contest examines a period of time we know as the Holocaust when the world was silent in the face of great evil and injustice. Your job as a writer is to:

1. Research two instances of this silence and/or indifference in the face of evil and injustice during the Holocaust and describe how and why this was able to happen. Also, what were the consequences to those victims of this failure, on the part of those who could have helped, to speak out?

2. Next, describe one contemporary issue (within the past 5-10 years) of this same silence and/or indifference present during the Holocaust and explain how and why this is taking place. Also, what are the consequences to those involved.

3. Finally, as a personal response, share a story of a time when you or a personal friend/relative were the victim of not being heard, seen, and aided during a great time of need. What consequences were suffered by the victim? What was the outcome?

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR RESEARCH:
Holocaust research examples: (1933-45) Kristallnacht; Jewish Boycott of Businesses; Book Burning; over 400 laws imposed against Jews; the ghettos; concentration camps (some almost in people’s back yards); the Einsatzgruppen; Nazi government-imposed silence; medical experiments; death marches

Current research examples: (2010 – 2021) ignoring climate change; LGBTQ+ harassment; persecution of minorities; bullies at school; child abuse/neglect; friends doing harmful acts
MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:
Length: 500-1000 words
Eligibility: Students in grades 6-8 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category. Use entry form attached.

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:
Length: 750-1500 words
Eligibility: Students in grades 9-12 at the beginning of the 2021-2022 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category. Use entry form attached.

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:
- Does the essay completely address this year’s essay contest topic?
- Have you given your essay a descriptive title?
- Is your essay the required length?
- Is your essay typed, double-spaced, with left and right margins set at 1 inch, on one side of white 8.5 by11 inch paper with Times New Roman font?
- Have you made sure that your name, school, or city DOES NOT appear anywhere on the essay manuscript? (only on the attached entry form)
- Did you include parenthetical citations of sources used? (Required for HS; MS requirements--teacher)
- Does your essay have a standardized Works Cited page?
- Did you completely fill out the entry form provided by your teacher?

WHITE ROSE AWARDS:
Ten students from grades 6-8 and also from grades 9-12 will be honored with a symbolic white rose. From these top essays, first, second, and third place cash prizes will be awarded as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades 6-8</th>
<th>Grades 9-12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place: $250</td>
<td>First Place: $250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second place: $150</td>
<td>Second place: $150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third place: $50</td>
<td>Third place: $50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top 10 students selected for outstanding essays in MS and HS will be inducted in to the Friends of the White Rose – Tulsa Region at a special recognition ceremony on Sunday, May 1, 2022. Winning essays will be posted on our website: jewishtulsa.org.

JUDGING CRITERIA:
Each essay will be judged using the following criteria:
- Depth of research
- Quality of writing
- Fulfillment of the prompt requirements (Essays not addressing ENTIRE prompt will be disqualified)
- Accuracy of factual information
- Responsible citation of sources consulted
- Fulfillment of contest requirements concerning topic, eligibility, guidelines, and endorsement

SUBMISSIONS:
Sponsoring teachers may hand deliver, submit by US mail, or electronically submit their students’ essays. A completed entry form for each student’s submission must also be included. These must arrive no later than Friday, April 1, 2022.

Essays should be delivered or mailed to:
**The White Rose Essay Contest**
Jewish Federation of Tulsa 2021 East 71st Street Tulsa, OK 74136
Electronic submissions:
For more information, contact Nancy Pettus, Director of Holocaust Education
npettus@jewishtulsa.org or call 918-495-1100
The Council for Holocaust Education

2021-2022 White Rose Essay Contest Entry Form

All fields must be completed for eligibility to enter the contest.

Essay Title______________________________________________________________

Student’s Name________________________________________________________

Student's Address_______________________________________________________

City___________________________Zip code_______________________________

Student’s email address_________________________________________________

Student's cell phone _____________________________

Parent/Guardian’s phone_________________________________________________

Student’s School_________________________Grade_______

Student’s pledge: “The work in this paper is original and represents my own research, thinking and writing on this subject.”

      Student’s signature______________________________________________

Faculty sponsor’s pledge: “I have read this paper and attest to its originality.”

Faculty sponsor’s signature____________________________________________

Faculty sponsor’s name (printed)__________________________________________