

# WHAT IS THE WHITE ROSE ORGANIZATION?



*White Rose founders Hans and Sophie Scholl*



*White Rose Memorial, Munich, Germany*

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.”

## FIFTEENTH WHITE ROSE MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

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

For all Oklahoma Middle and High School Students

**Submission deadline: Monday, February 27, 2023**

### 2022-2023 ESSAY PROMPT:

**Consider the following: Moral Courage involves standing up for your beliefs and values even at the risk of your reputation, emotional anxiety, social isolation, employment or even your life. Holocaust survivor Fred Gross said of the morally courageous: “They had the moral courage to stand up...they were not bystanders; they were human beings.**

### YOUR JOB AS A WRITER IS TO:

1. Research two (2) individuals who exhibited moral courage during the Holocaust and explain how their lives and actions fit the definition of moral courage. Example: How did standing up for their values and beliefs impact their reputation, and their emotional well-being? Did it cause social isolation, affect their employment or the length of their lives.
2. Next, examine one contemporary individual (within the past 5-10 years) whose life and actions fit the definition of moral courage. Describe how standing up for their values and beliefs altered this person’s life.
3. As a personal response, share a story about when you acted in a morally courageous manner. Did your actions affect your reputation or your emotional well-being? Did it cause social isolation or loss of employment? Discuss the consequences or rewards of your choice.

### POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR RESEARCH:

Holocaust examples (1933-45): Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Sempo Sugihara; Aristides de Sousa Mendes; Wilm Hosenfeld; Emanuel Ringelblum; Irene Gut Opdyke; Leopold Socha; Janusz Korczak; Marion Pritchard; Irena Sendler; Fritz Gerlich

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:**

Length: 500-1000 words

Eligibility: Oklahoma Students in grades 6-8 at the beginning of the 2022-2023 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: Oklahoma Students in grades 9-12 at the beginning of the 2022-2023 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category. Use entry form attached.

### **ESSAY REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST:**

- Addresses contest topic
- Descriptive title
- Required length
- Typed, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, Times New Roman font, on one side of standard white paper
- Your name, school, or city DOES NOT appear anywhere on the essay
- Parenthetical citations of sources used (Required for HS; MS recommended)
- Standardized Works Cited page with at least 3 reputable sources
- Completed and submitted entry form

### **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:

Finalists will be selected and the following prizes awarded in the **Middle School** and **High School** categories.

First Place: \$250      Second place: \$150      Third place: \$50

Teachers of finalists will also receive the following prizes.

First Place: \$100      Second place: \$75      Third place: \$50

**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 in May, 2023.**

**Winning essays will be posted on our website: [jewishtulsa.org](http://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 Monday, February 27, 2023.**

Essays should be delivered or mailed to:

**The White Rose Essay Contest  
Jewish Federation of Tulsa  
2021 East 71st Street Tulsa, OK 74136**

For more information, contact Chloe Kirk, [ckirk@jewishtulsa.org](mailto:ckirk@jewishtulsa.org).

Essay Code \_\_\_\_\_

(For official use only)

## The Council for Holocaust Education



### 2022-2023 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) \_\_\_\_\_