

# 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.”

## SIXTEENTH WHITE ROSE MEMORIAL ESSAY CONTEST

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

For all Oklahoma Middle and High School Students

Submission deadline: Friday, March 29, 2024

### 2024 ESSAY PROMPT:

Consider the following: Antisemitism worldwide has sharply increased since October 7, 2023, and continues to rise. Research and describe parallels between the events leading up to the Holocaust and recent events in society today, including an example of a person or organization that has spoken out against antisemitism.

### YOUR JOB AS A WRITER IS TO:

1. Research and describe one or more event(s) leading up to the Holocaust (between 1914 -1939).
2. Next, research recent events (2014 - present) in society, either in the United States or another country around the world. Explain and compare at least one event that mirrors the event(s) from the Holocaust you have previously discussed.
3. Research an individual or organization, either Jewish or not, that has recently (2014 - present) spoken out or taken a stand in some way against antisemitism.

### POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR RESEARCH:

*Holocaust events:* Distribution of antisemitic propaganda, state legislation, book bans, vandalism, boycotts of Jewish businesses, violence against Jewish people.

*Standing up against antisemitism:* Adidas, the Walt Disney Company, The ADL, Starbucks, the NBA, President Joe Biden, Mayim Bialik, Gal Gadot, Kim Kardashian.



**The Jewish Federation of Tulsa**  
Council for Holocaust Education  
2021 E 71st. St. Tulsa, OK 74136  
918-495-1100 | JewishTulsa.org



## MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Length: 500-1000 words

Eligibility: Oklahoma Students in grades 6-8 at the beginning of the 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 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 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: \$150      Second place: \$100      Third place: \$50

Teachers of finalists will also receive the following prizes.

First Place: \$100      Second place: \$50      Third place: \$25

**Winning entries are eligible to be published in the Tulsa Jewish Review, a monthly publication of the Jewish Federation of Tulsa.**

## 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 signature

## 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, March 29, 2024.**

Essays should be delivered or mailed to:

**The White Rose Essay Contest**

**Jewish Federation of Tulsa**

**2021 East 71st Street, Tulsa, OK 74136**

Essays may also be submitted electronically at:

**[www.jewishtulsa.org/whiterose](http://www.jewishtulsa.org/whiterose)**

For more information, contact Sofia Thornblad at **[curator@jewishmuseum.net](mailto:curator@jewishmuseum.net)**.



**The Jewish Federation of Tulsa**  
Council for Holocaust Education  
2021 E 71st. St. Tulsa, OK 74136  
918-495-1100 | [JewishTulsa.org](http://JewishTulsa.org)



# White Rose Essay Contest Entry Form

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

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Student's School \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Essay Title \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Pledge: *"The work in this paper is original and represents my own research, thinking, and writing on this subject."*

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Pledge: *"I have read this paper and attest to its originality."*

Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**The Jewish Federation of Tulsa**  
Council for Holocaust Education  
2021 E 71st. St. Tulsa, OK 74136  
918-495-1100 | JewishTulsa.org

