

The White Rose Organization



White Rose founders Hans and Sophie Scholl



White Rose leaflets, 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.”



18th White Rose Memorial Essay Contest

Open to all Oklahoma Middle and High School Students

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Monday, April 13, 2026

2026 ESSAY PROMPT:

What knowledge about the Holocaust would have been available to Americans between the years of 1933 and 1945 and how did they respond?

Using the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s (USHMM) History Unfolded resource, research a particular American city’s response. How does the city’s response reflect and/or support the national, governmental response?

In conclusion, write about a time when you felt compelled to respond (to any situation, good or bad). Describe the situation that prompted your response and explain why you responded. How did you feel? How did your response affect others?



Jewish Tulsa | Council for Holocaust Education

2021 E. 71st Street, 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 2025-2026 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category. Use entry form attached, if paper submission.

HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Length: 750-1500 words

Eligibility: Oklahoma Students in grades 9-12 at the beginning of the 2025-2026 academic year may participate. Students may win an award only once in each school category. Use entry form attached, if paper submission.

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
- Students must cite at least 5 newspaper articles from history unfolded
- Research outside of the History Unfolded resource is recommended
- Comparisons between the Holocaust and current events must not be made



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:*

STUDENT AWARDS

1st Place: \$150

2nd Place: \$100

3rd Place: \$50

TEACHER AWARDS (OF FINALISTS)

1st Place: \$100

2nd Place: \$50

3rd Place: \$25

Winning entries may be published in the Tulsa Jewish Review, a monthly magazine published by Jewish Tulsa.

JUDGING 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



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SUBMISSIONS:

Sponsoring teachers may hand deliver, submit by US mail, or electronically submit their students' essays. A completed entry form must also be included.

These must arrive no later than Monday, April 13, 2026.

Essays should be delivered or mailed to:

White Rose Essay Contest

Jewish Tulsa

2021 East 71st Street, Tulsa, OK 74136

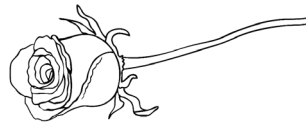
Essays may also be submitted electronically at:

www.jewishtulsa.org/whiterose

For more information, email Sofia Thornblad at curator@jewishmuseum.net

RESOURCES:

- History unfolded link: <https://newspapers.ushmm.org>
Click " Search Newspaper Articles" to explore. Students can search by city and/or key event.
- USHMM resources about Americans and the Holocaust:
<https://exhibitions.ushmm.org/americans-and-the-holocaust/main>
- USHMM Holocaust encyclopedia: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org>



Awards Reception

Honoring winning essay writers and all participants

Sunday, May 17 at 4 pm
at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art
2021 E. 71st Street | Tulsa OK 74146

The White Rose Society

In times of Nazi
terror, they
appealed to the
responsibility of
every individual
for freedom
and justice.



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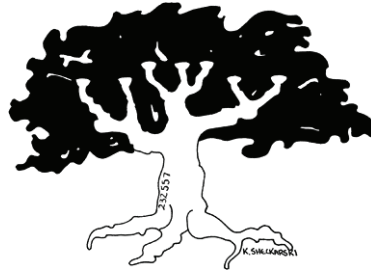
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Essay Code _____

(For official use only)

The Council for Holocaust Education



2026 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) _____



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