

**2019 Spokane Community  
OBSERVANCE OF THE HOLOCAUST  
13<sup>th</sup> Annual Eva Lassman Memorial Writing Contest**

**SPEAKING UP FOR “THE OTHER”**



*What's the Difference?*  
Kiarra Dupree (2018, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Winner)

**ESSAY PROMPT**

Using sources like those provided, learn about the Holocaust and read about or listen to some of the many stories of survivors who were labeled “*the other*” by the Nazis. Write an essay or poem that addresses these 2 sets of questions:

1. What are the lessons you learned from their stories that had a major impact on you? Why is it important to speak up for those who are considered “*the other*”?

**AND**

2. Who are “*the other*” today? Based on the lessons you learned, what are you motivated to do to speak up for them?

**THE AWARDS**

(1) The 1<sup>st</sup> place winner of the high school and middle school divisions will have the honor of reading their composition at the Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust on **Sunday evening, April 28, 2019** at Temple Beth Shalom on Spokane’s South Hill. The 1<sup>st</sup> place submissions will also be published in *The Spokesman-Review*.

(2) At the Observance the winners will receive the following scholarship awards:

**1<sup>st</sup> Place High School Division: \$400**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Middle School Division: \$250**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place High School Division: \$250**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Middle School Division: \$150**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place High School Division: \$100**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place Middle School Division: \$75**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Holocaust was the most extensive deliberate genocide in recorded history. Adolf Hitler and the German Nazi Party came to power in 1933 by cultivating longstanding fear and hatred for non-Aryans. Through manipulation and propaganda, they rallied the people of Germany to go to war with the rest of Europe in 1939. Furthermore, they sought to rid the world of non-Aryan “others” whom they judged to be unsuitable for life; particularly Jews, but also Roma, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, and people with disabilities. When WWII ended in 1945, the Nazis and their collaborators had exterminated 11 million people; 6 million of whom were Jews, or two-thirds of the entire Jewish population of Europe.

The experience of the Holocaust is ingrained in the personal memories of the survivors, but their numbers are rapidly diminishing. Therefore, teaching the lessons of the Holocaust relies on *us* to remember and to tell their stories.

*Learning from those memories and translating them into action is the challenge of this year’s contest.*

## **REFERENCES**

**Suggested sources from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to help you get started:**

- An overview of the Holocaust:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/introduction-to-the-holocaust>

- First-person accounts by survivors:

<https://www.ushmm.org/information/visit-the-museum/programs-activities/first-person-program/first-person-podcast>

## **THE RULES**

- (1) The contest is open to all high school and middle school students in the Inland Northwest.
- (2) **On a separate cover page**, type your name, phone number, email address, school name, grade, and teacher.
- (3) Your essay or poem should be between 500 – 1000 words, double-spaced, in **Microsoft Word format**. Sources must be cited, preferably at the end of the essay. They will not be included in the word count.
- (4) Email your entry **as an attachment** to:  
[neveragain-spokane@comcast.net](mailto:neveragain-spokane@comcast.net) **before midnight Sunday, February 24, 2019.**
- (5) Submissions will be judged by the Spokane Community Observance of the Holocaust Planning Committee based on originality, content, spelling and grammar, and accuracy of information.
- (6) The winners will be selected and notified by **Monday, April 8, 2019.**