

Name: _____

Block: _____

HUMANITIES ESSAY: AM I MY BROTHER'S/SISTER'S KEEPER?

How can the examination of the past inform us about our present lives and what our responsibility is toward one another?

For the last two months you have been examining the tragic events of the Holocaust and their effect on all of humanity. You have spent time studying the historical and social circumstances, as well as personal accounts of experiences surrounding the Holocaust, and have made personal connections through activities, writing and discussion.

You will utilize all of these experiences to write an essay that responds to the central question using historical and literary documents as evidence. To do this you will identify the themes (*examples include: Dehumanization, Resistance, Choice, Faith, Hope, Social Responsibility, Identity, Relationships, etc...*) that you feel are most worth exploring in greater depth and examines them in detail. Finally, you will take your study one step further and discuss how your study of this theme has informed your thinking about what our responsibility is to one another in this world: ***are you your brothers'/sisters' keeper?***

This essay will give you the opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned about themes related to the Holocaust in your English and Social Studies classes. In writing this essay you will make connections between historical and literary texts to help you demonstrate your learning and understanding.

Don't Worry... You have already begun making these connections in your *Composition Notebook* from World History and in the reflective writing, quote responses and explorations from your *Scrapbook of a Witness* from English Language Arts!!! This work will become the foundation for your writing and analysis in the essay...

You will draw evidence to support your analysis from the following **Resources**:

Historical Resources (use 3 different sources):

- WORLD HISTORY textbook sections – *Postwar Europe, The Weimar Republic, Rise of Fascism*
- “Who are the Jews?” article
- Holocaust Events and Resistance Descriptions
- ‘Universe of Obligation’ Activity and Notes
- Facing History Readings: “Taking a Stand,” “Schools for Barbarians,” “Schools for Girls”

Literary Resources (use 2 different sources):

- *Night* by Elie Wiesel
- Elie Wiesel's Nobel Acceptance Speech
- *Inside Dachau* by Sherman Alexie
- The film *Life is Beautiful* by Roberto Begnini
- *Shema* by Primo Levi (*not covered in class*)

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum 4-5 pages

Include the following elements:

Introduction & Thesis

- An extensive introduction that explores the themes and concerns that your paper will address. This introduction should be a broad overview and make connections to your personal experiences and observations.
- A clear thesis/argument that presents your point of view on the central question.

Your Argument (The Body)

- Examination and discussion at least 4 significant social/historical events or situations and draw connections to the effect these events had on people their perceptions.
- Exploration how each of these 4 social/historical events and/or situations and their effects inform your own sense of what our responsibility is toward one another.

Conclusion

- A conclusion that not only draws strong conclusions about the themes and concerns addressed in the essay, but that also extends your thinking by posing further questions and applying your conclusions to current events.

Double-spaced in a standard 12pt font (*Times, Times New Roman, etc...*)

Edited for grammar and spell-checked

Provide a bibliography of sources