

2020 Sala Kryszek Art & Writing Competition Prompt

Submission Deadline: March 20, 2020

“And I think when all this anti-Jewish propaganda started, a lot of people sort of wanted to be a stand-byer, they didn’t want to get too involved. And they cut their friendship or acquaintance with Jewish people. And I remember that some of the children I was playing with ... it sort of slowly discontinued.” – Eva Aigner, local Holocaust survivor



A GERMAN COUPLE READS AN OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF THE ANTISEMITIC NEWSPAPER *DER STÜRMER* (THE ATTACKER). GERMANY, 1935.

Language can be used as a tool of hate. Hate speech—language that expresses intolerance, antisemitism, racism, and prejudice against a particular group—can serve both as a warning sign and catalyst to genocide and mass atrocity. The Nazi party used both written and spoken words, as well as visual media, to disseminate hateful ideas. Their consistent inflammatory speech was intended to not only vilify and humiliate Jews but shape the perceptions and attitudes of how non-Jews viewed and treated Jews.

Hate speech can have the power to influence ordinary people to accept, approve of, or commit violence, as happened during the Holocaust, when six million Jewish men, women, and children, and millions of people from other minority groups, were murdered.

Reflecting on Holocaust history, create a piece of writing or work of visual art that examines how hate speech was expressed, why it was effective at oppressing Jews and other minorities, and its consequences for modern society.