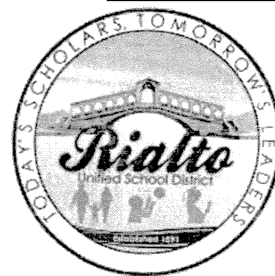


Rialto Unified School District  
Grade 8 ELA Performance Task, Student Booklet  
Argumentative Writing/Research  
Quarter 3



**Student Directions:**

**Part 1, Days 1, 2, and 3 (135 minutes)**

**Your assignment:**

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. You will read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim.

**Steps you will be following:**

In order to plan and compose your argumentative essay based on research, you will do all of the following:

- 1) Read and analyze information from multiple, credible sources.
- 2) Independently answer three questions based on these sources.
- 3) Engage in academic discussion, take notes, and respond to three questions.
- 4) Based on your research, plan and write your argumentative essay including the use of parenthetical(internal) citations and a Works Cited page.

**Directions for beginning:**

You will now read and annotate the three articles provided. If your teacher allows you to, you may also conduct independent research from the websites

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust> and

<http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Holocaust/websites.html> or from materials at the

library.

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #1



# "The Holocaust"

## What Does Holocaust Mean?

- The Holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers.
- The term "Holocaust," originally from the Greek word "Holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire," refers to the Nazi's persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people. The Hebrew word "Shoah," which means "devastation, ruin, or waste," is also used for this genocide.
- In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the disabled for persecution. Anyone who resisted the Nazis was sent to forced labor or murdered.
- The term "Nazi" is an acronym for "National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" ("National Socialist German Worker's Party").
- The Nazis used the term "The Final Solution" to refer to their plan to murder the Jewish people.

## The Big Numbers

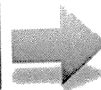
important

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust.

## Persecution Begins

- On April 1, 1933, the Nazis **instigated** their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run businesses.
- The Nuremberg Laws, issued on September 15, 1935, began to exclude Jews from public life. The Nuremberg Laws included a law that stripped German Jews of their citizenship and a law that prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans. The Nuremberg Laws set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation.
- Nazis then issued additional anti-Jews laws over the next several years. For example, some of these laws excluded Jews from places like parks, fired them from civil service jobs (i.e. government jobs), made Jews register their property, and prevented Jewish doctors from working on anyone other than Jewish patients.

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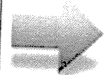


- During the night of November 9-10, 1938, Nazis incited a program against Jews in Austria and Germany in what has been termed, "Kristallnacht" ("Night of Broken Glass"). This night of violence included the pillaging and burning of synagogues, breaking the windows of Jewish-owned businesses, the looting of these stores, and many Jews were also physically attacked. Additionally, approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- After World War II started in 1939, the Nazis began ordering Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing so that Jews could be easily recognized and targeted.

## Ghettos

- After the beginning of World War II, Nazis began ordering all Jews to live within certain, very specific, areas of big cities, called ghettos.
- Jews were forced out of their homes and moved into smaller apartments, often shared with other families.
- Some ghettos started out as "open," which meant that Jews could leave the area during the daytime but often had to be back within the ghetto by a curfew. Later, all ghettos became "closed," which meant that Jews were trapped within the confines of the ghetto and not allowed to leave.
- A few of the major ghettos were located in the cities of Bialystok, Kovno, Lodz, Minsk, Riga, Vilna, and Warsaw.
- The largest ghetto was in Warsaw, with its highest population reaching 445,000 in March 1941.
- In most ghettos, Nazis ordered the Jews to establish a Judenrat (a Jewish council) to both administer Nazi demands and to regulate the internal life of the ghetto.
- Nazis would then order deportations from the ghettos. In some of the large ghettos, 1,000 people per day were loaded up in trains and sent to either a concentration camp or a death camp.
- To get them to cooperate, the Nazis told the Jews they were being transported to another place for labor.
- When the Nazis decided to kill the remaining Jews in a ghetto, they would "liquidate" a ghetto by boarding the last Jews in the ghetto on trains.
- When the Nazis attempted to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto on April 13, 1943, the remaining Jews fought back in what has become known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Jewish resistance fighters held out against the entire Nazi regime for 28 days -- longer than many European countries had been able to withstand Nazi conquest.

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## Concentration and Extermination Camps

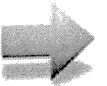
- Although many people refer to all Nazi camps as "concentration camps," there were actually a number of different kinds of camps, including concentration camps, **extermination** camps, labor camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and transit camps. (Map)
- One of the first concentration camps was Dachau, which opened on March 20, 1933.
- From 1933 until 1938, most of the prisoners in the concentration camps were political prisoners (i.e. people who spoke or acted in some way against Hitler or the Nazis) and people the Nazis labeled as "asocial."
- After Kristallnacht in 1938, the persecution of Jews became more organized. This led to the exponential increase in the number of Jews sent to concentration camps.

*implied*  
Life within Nazi concentration camps was horrible. Prisoners were forced to do hard physical labor and yet given tiny rations. Prisoners slept three or more people per crowded wooden bunk (no mattress or pillow). Torture within the concentration camps was common and deaths were frequent.

- At a number of Nazi concentration camps, Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on prisoners against their will.
- While concentration camps were meant to work and starve prisoners to death, extermination camps (also known as death camps) were built for the sole purpose of killing large groups of people quickly and efficiently.
- The Nazis built six extermination camps: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek. (Auschwitz and Majdanek were both concentration and extermination camps.)
- Prisoners transported to these extermination camps were told to undress to take a shower. Rather than a shower, the prisoners were herded into gas chambers and killed. (At Chelmno, the prisoners were herded into gas vans instead of gas chambers.)
- Auschwitz was the largest concentration and extermination camp built. It is estimated that 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm>

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #2

### Is the Holocaust a Hoax? 2

Within five minutes, any intelligent, open-minded person can be convinced that the Holocaust gassings of World War II are a profitable hoax.

Fred A. Leuchter is America's leading specialist on the design and fabrication of execution equipment, including homicidal gas chambers. In 1988, Leuchter scraped samples from the alleged gas chamber walls in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Lublin. Cyanide residue would be clearly evident on all these walls if gassings did occur. To his astonishment, Leuchter found no significant cyanide traces in any one of these rooms.

In 1991, the Polish government repeated these tests to disprove Leuchter's findings, but they as well found no evidence of any gassings ever occurring.

The structural integrity of these "gas chambers" is also extremely faulty. These rooms have ordinary doors and windows which are not hermetically sealed! There are large gaps between the floors and doors. If the Germans had attempted to gas anyone in these rooms, they would have died themselves, as the gas would have leaked and contaminated the entire area. Also, no equipment exists to exhaust the air-gas mixture from these buildings. Nothing was made to introduce or distribute the gas throughout the chambers. There are no provisions to prevent condensation of gas on the walls, floors or ceilings. No exhaust stacks have ever existed.

Though six million Jews supposedly died in the gas chambers, not one body has ever been autopsied and found to have died of gas poisoning. We have been shown piles of bodies from World War II, but most of these persons died of typhus or starvation or Allied bombings and a great many of those were murdered Germans, not Jews. Roughly the equivalent of ten football fields should be packed full of gassed bodies to present as evidence, yet not one body has ever been discovered.

The Germans documented everything in meticulous detail from shrubbery to arbors, but no pre-war or wartime plans or documents exist that detail or even mention any gas chambers for reasons of genocide. All documents ever presented were drawn up AFTER the war.

Even if we threw away all the evidence and accounted for every so-called gas chamber, it would have taken 68 YEARS to accomplish gassing six million Jews!

Please continue to the next page.



Even The Diary of Anne Frank is a hoax. Portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen. These pens were not in use at the time Anne Frank lived.

It is not denied concentration camps existed. Tragically, many died of typhus or starvation, as often happens in such situations. There is, however, no evidence that any gassings occurred for the reasons of genocide.

Israel continues to receive trillions of dollars worldwide as retribution for Holocaust gassings. Our country has donated more money to Israel than to any other country in the history of the world -- over \$35 billion per year, everything included. If not for our extravagantly generous gifts to Israel, every family in America could afford a brand new Mercedes Benz. Surely the American people would be outraged if they realized their hard-earned money is being squandered during these difficult times.

With all this money at stake for Israel, it is easy to comprehend why this Holocaust hoax is so secretly guarded. The Jewish name for Holocaust is "Shoah." In Zionist circles, it is known as "Shoah Business." If nothing else, this unbelievable cover-up demonstrates the irrepressible Zionist influence and control of our country. Their only defense against the facts is to cry out "Antisemitic," "Skinhead" or "Nazi," whereas the majority of those who question the Holocaust are ordinary citizens...though you would never know it from the media.

In whatever way you can, please help shatter this profitable myth. It is time we stop sacrificing America's welfare for the sake of Israel and spend our hard-earned dollars on Americans.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the so-called Holocaust never existed. Page 223, in The Diary of Anne Frank, (Pan Horizons edition, Pan Books Ltd., London, 1989), indicates that the size of Auschwitz, the most notorious of all German work camps, WAS VERY SMALL, with only 11,000 people (many of whom may not even have been Jews) being evacuated by the Germans at the time of the Russian advance in 1945. Certainly, compared to Spielberg's film, Schindler's List (which Emilie Schindler, Oskar's widow, said was full of lies), and other Jewish propaganda, that millions upon millions of Jews were systematically exterminated, 11,000 people is a very small number. Simple arithmetic tells us that the Germans would have had to have had hundreds of camps, or else they would have had to exterminate 137 people PER HOUR, in order for six million Jews to have been exterminated at such small camps as Auschwitz, a feat that would have been humanly impossible considering that, according to Douglas Reed's Behind the Scene and The Controversy of Zion, a mere 850,000 soldiers and others were killed by the entire German and Japanese war machines combined during WW2 (see p.397-400 of Douglas Reed's book Controversy of Zion). People who would believe the Jewish propaganda that six million Jews were exterminated by Hitler must KEEP IN MIND THE SMALL SCALE CONSTRUCTION OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE VERY FEW OTHER GERMAN WORK CAMPS THAT EXISTED



DURING WW2.

On July 13, 1994, a documentary on the life of Charles A. Lindbergh broadcast on the Public Broadcast System (PBS - KENW-TV) said that when Lindbergh visited one of these few camps in Germany following WW2, he was told that 25,000 died in 1-1/2 years. Again, simple arithmetic tells us that 25,000 times a half dozen camps does not equal 6,000,000. In fact, it doesn't even equal 600,000. . . .

It is an interesting fact that the number of so-called persecuted Jews **KEEPS INCREASING.** Hal Greenwald, program director for the Hillel Foundation at Duke University, a Jewish student group, has been promoting the idea that **NINE MILLION JEWS WERE EXTERMINATED IN HITLER'S GAS CHAMBERS** (New York Times, Nov. 9, 1991, AP). **NOW IT'S 9 MILLION AND GROWING. ..JUST LIKE OUR DEBT/TAX MONEY SUPPLY...THE NUMBERS JUST KEEP COMING OUT OF THIN AIR. . .(The Bible Caused Economic and Financial Slavery in the New World Order by Lee Cheney).**

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holofoax.htm>

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## Source #3

### Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism & Hitler's Rise to Power

Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1870s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust—even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine. The Enlightenment, during the 17th and 18th centuries, emphasized religious toleration, and in the 19th century Napoleon and other European rulers enacted legislation that ended long-standing restrictions on Jews. Anti-Semitic feeling endured, however, in many cases taking on a racial character rather than a religious one.

The roots of Hitler's particularly virulent brand of anti-Semitism are unclear. Born in Austria in 1889, he served in the German army during World War I. Like many anti-Semites in Germany, he blamed the Jews for the country's defeat in 1918. Soon after the war ended, Hitler joined the National German Workers' Party, which became the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), known to English speakers as the Nazis. While imprisoned for treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Hitler wrote the memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle), in which he predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany." Hitler was obsessed with the idea of the superiority of the "pure" German race, which he called "Aryan," and with the need for "Lebensraum," or living space, for that race to expand. In the decade after he was released from prison, Hitler took advantage of the weakness of his rivals to enhance his party's status and rise from obscurity to power. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. After President Paul von Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler anointed himself as "Führer," becoming Germany's supreme ruler.

#### Nazi Revolution in Germany, 1933-1939

The twin goals of racial purity and spatial expansion were the core of Hitler's worldview, and from 1933 onward they would combine to form the driving force behind his foreign and domestic policy. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau (near Munich) in March 1933, and many of the





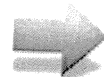
first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel (SS), and later chief of the German police. By July 1933, German concentration camps (Konzentrationslager in German, or KZ) held some 27,000 people in "protective custody." Huge Nazi rallies and symbolic acts such as the public burning of books by Jews, Communists, liberals and foreigners helped drive home the desired message of party strength.

In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 525,000, or only 1 percent of the total German population. During the next six years, Nazis undertook an "Aryanization" of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans from civil service, liquidating Jewish-owned businesses and stripping Jewish lawyers and doctors of their clients. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge (half-breeds). Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. This culminated in Kristallnacht, or the "night of broken glass" in November 1938, when German synagogues were burned and windows in Jewish shops were smashed; some 100 Jews were killed and thousands more arrested. From 1933 to 1939, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear.

### Beginning of War , 1939-1940

In September 1939, the German army occupied the western half of Poland. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans (non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German), Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus.

The article continues on the next page.



Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1939, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans **institutionalized** for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945 some 275,000 people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust.

### Towards the "Final Solution," 1940-1941

Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, the German army expanded Hitler's empire in Europe, conquering Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Beginning in 1941, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 500,000 Soviet Jews and others (usually by shooting) over the course of the German occupation.

A memorandum dated July 31, 1941, from Hitler's top commander Hermann Goering to Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (the security service of the SS), referred to the need for an Endlösung (Final Solution) to "the Jewish question." Beginning in September 1941, every person designated as a Jew in German-held territory was marked with a yellow star, making them open targets. Tens of thousands were soon being deported to the Polish ghettos and German-occupied cities in the USSR. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. That August, 500 officials gassed 500 Soviet POWs to death with the pesticide Zyklon-B. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust.

### Holocaust Death Camps, 1941-1945

Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least

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useful: the sick, old and weak and the very young. The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 300,000 people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone.

Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. During the summer of 1944, even as the events of D-Day (June 6, 1944) and a Soviet offensive the same month spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in the war, a large proportion of Hungary's Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and as many as 12,000 Jews were killed every day.

### Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, 1945

By the spring of 1945, German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. In his last will and political testament, dictated in a German bunker that April 29, Hitler blamed the war on "International Jewry and its helpers" and urged the German leaders and people to follow "the strict observance of the racial laws and with merciless resistance against the universal poisoners of all peoples"--the Jews. The following day, he committed suicide. Germany's formal surrender in World War II came barely a week later, on May 8, 1945.

The article continues on the next page.



German forces had begun evacuating many of the death camps in the fall of 1944, sending inmates under guard to march further from the advancing enemy's front line. These so-called "death marches" continued all the way up to the German surrender, resulting in the deaths of some 250,000 to 375,000 people. In his classic book "Survival in Auschwitz," the Italian Jewish author Primo Levi described his own state of mind, as well as that of his fellow inmates in Auschwitz on the day before Soviet troops arrived at the camp in January 1945: "We lay in a world of death and phantoms. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat."

### Aftermath & Lasting Impact of the Holocaust

The wounds of the Holocaust--known in Hebrew as Shoah, or catastrophe--were slow to heal. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late 1940s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46, which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in 1948.

Over the decades that followed, ordinary Germans struggled with the Holocaust's bitter legacy, as survivors and the families of victims sought restitution of wealth and property **confiscated** during the Nazi years. Beginning in 1953, the German government made payments to individual Jews and to the Jewish people as a way of acknowledging the German people's responsibility for the crimes committed in their name.

<http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust>

Use the next page to record additional information from your independent research of the websites and library materials that support your claim. Make sure to cite the sources where you find additional information.



Please write research information from additional sources in the chart below.

Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source	Research States:

Please continue to the next page.



## Independent Questions for Days 1-3

Based upon your research, answer the questions below independently. Your answers to these questions will help you analyze your research. You may refer back to the articles with your notes and annotations at any time. Answer each question in the space provided. Remember that questions may have multiple parts.

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, what is the claim for your argumentative research essay? (Was the Holocaust an actual tragic historical event or a propaganda tool?)

Claim:

I think that the holocaust was a true story

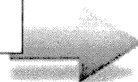
Source	Textual Evidence Quoted or Paraphrased	Justification for How Evidence Supports My Claim
Source #1 The holocaust	Pg. 2 The holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers!	Will it tell you from what year to what year.
Source #2: is the holocaust a Hoax.	portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen" Page 6.	Will those pens were not in use when Anne was alive
Source #3: Before the Holocaust	Hitler was born in Austria in 1889, he served in the German army during World War I. Page 8	Will Hitler was born in Austria and he was part Jewish.
Source #4:		
Source #5:		

Please continue to the next page.

In the chart below, state and justify the best textual evidence from each source

2. Based upon the sources, what are the best examples of textual evidence (facts, statistics, quotations, etc.) that support a possible COUNTERCLAIM? Justify how each piece of evidence supports a possible counterclaim.

Source	Possible Counter Claim	Textual Evidence, Quoted or Paraphrased, Supporting Possible Counter Claim	Justification How does this evidence support the counter claim?
Source #1: The Holocaust	That the Holocaust was not real.	Pg. 2 Holocaust originally from the Greek word <i>holokausis</i> which means sacrifice by fire	Will they called holocaust were the burned people with Gass.
Source #2: Is the holocaust a hoax	That the Holocaust was really?	Will they found the diary of Anne Frank's	in the diary it says that they were ink hiding for about 11
Source #3: Before the Holocaust.	that the Holocaust was not real.	He served in the military world war 1. page 8	Will he was in the war with Germany he was raised there.
Source #4:			
Source #5:			



3. Was the Holocaust an actual historical event, or was it an example of political propaganda? If your claim is adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to prevent acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

Based on the evidence from the source it looks like the holocaust was political propaganda. Will I think that people will still want to do history because it's fun and it shows us how many people been through. Just as we can have been here.

If your claim is not adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

Will my claim was not adopted. It looks like the holocaust was not real. I think that people will be more inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world because we will like to see more about it.



You have completed Part 1 of the assessment.



## Part 2, Day 4 (40 minutes)

### Directions:

Today, you will be working in a small group of three to four students. As a group, engage in academic discussion of the questions below. You may refer to annotations and notes you made during your research and to your personal responses to the three questions you answered in Part 1 of the assessment.

As you participate in today's discussion, write down other people's ideas in your notes, as well as new ideas you form based upon the discussion.

### Academic Discussion Questions:

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, which claim has the strongest supporting evidence? Note: Reference the chart on page 14.

Discussion Notes: I think that the claim had a strongest support was that it was fake because the gas chambers doors had big gaps.

2. Based upon the sources, what textual evidence best supports the strongest **COUNTERCLAIM**. Note: Reference the chart on page 15.

Discussion Notes: There have been concentration camps before the holocaust and it's something like that happen.

3. Based upon your group discussion, did you change your personal claim? Why or why not based upon evidence discussed?

Discussion Notes: I didn't change my claim because I said it was fake and based on my group evidence I still think it fake.



You have completed Part 2 of the assessment.

## Part 3, Days 5, 6, and 7 (135 minutes)

**Directions:** Over the next three days, you will have 135 minutes to review your notes, plan, draft, and revise your essay. Remember, your essay must contain parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page. You may use the three research articles, your independent research, your annotations of the articles, your notes and responses to the independent questions from Part 1, and your discussion notes from Part 2. You must complete the argumentative essay on your own. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored. Then, begin your work.

### Your Writing Assignment:

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual historical event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. Based upon your research on this issue, write an argumentative essay, utilizing cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe the Holocaust was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim. You are also required to use parenthetical(internal) citations and to provide a Works Cited page.

How your argumentative essay will be scored: The person scoring your essay will be assigning scores for the following:

1. **Ideas** – how well you state your claim and support your claim with credible evidence from the articles
2. **Organization** – how well your ideas flow from the opening to the conclusion and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Word Choice** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
4. **Sentence Fluency** – how well your sentences have flow, rhythm, cadence, and are built with strong, varied structures
5. **Conventions** – how well you use standard writing conventions to effectively enhance the readability of your essay

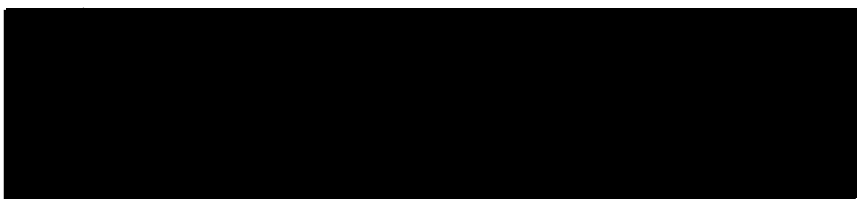
Now, begin work on your essay. Manage your time carefully so that you have time to:

- plan your essay
- write your essay
- revise and edit before writing your final copy of the essay



	1	6	5	6	9	3
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	●	1	1	1	1	1
Org	0	0	2	2	3	0
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WCI	1	0	0	0	0	0
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SF	1	0	0	0	0	0
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# The Holocaust

The Holocaust started in 1933, Adolf Hitler to power in Germany. The Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers. The Nazis were against the Jews, Gypsies, Jehovah's Witnesses and whoever was against the Nazis. The word "Holocaust" means "sacrifice by fire" which means that they would kill people by fire.

Why do I think the Holocaust was an actual history event? Because people have proof about it, most people survived the Holocaust and some didn't. But the ones who did survive have told people what really happened. Plus if the Holocaust didn't exist people wouldn't talk about it. Or we wouldn't be talking about it if it wasn't true.

Another reason why I think the Holocaust was an actual history event was real is because people actually were killed. People didn't really have proof that they actually died, but a lot of people like family say that their family are missing and that they're pretty sure they were killed when the Holocaust started and the Nazis soldiers were taking the Jews to the ghetto. Either they died of hunger or they killed them.

Hitler made the Jews people work  
so they would get tired and might die  
of being hungry but they actually  
told them that it was going

Rialto Unified School District  
Grade 8 ELA Performance Task, Student Booklet  
Argumentative Writing/Research  
Quarter 3



**Student Directions:**

**Part 1, Days 1, 2, and 3 (135 minutes)**

**Your assignment:**

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. You will read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim.

**Steps you will be following:**

In order to plan and compose your argumentative essay based on research, you will do all of the following:

- 1) Read and analyze information from multiple, credible sources.
- 2) Independently answer three questions based on these sources.
- 3) Engage in academic discussion, take notes, and respond to three questions.
- 4) Based on your research, plan and write your argumentative essay including the use of parenthetical(internal) citations and a Works Cited page.

**Directions for beginning:**

You will now read and annotate the three articles provided. If your teacher allows you to, you may also conduct independent research from the websites

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust> and

<http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Holocaust/websites.html> or from materials at the library.

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #1

# “The Holocaust”

## What Does Holocaust Mean?

- The Holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers.
- The term "Holocaust," originally from the Greek word "Holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire," refers to the Nazi's persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people. The Hebrew word "Shoah," which means "devastation, ruin, or waste," is also used for this genocide.
- In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the disabled for persecution. Anyone who resisted the Nazis was sent to forced labor or murdered.
- The term "Nazi" is an acronym for "National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" ("National Socialist German Worker's Party").
- The Nazis used the term "The Final Solution" to refer to their plan to murder the Jewish people.

## The Big Numbers

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust.

## Persecution Begins

- On April 1, 1933, the Nazis instigated their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run businesses.
- The Nuremberg Laws, issued on September 15, 1935, began to exclude Jews from public life. The Nuremberg Laws included a law that stripped German Jews of their citizenship and a law that prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans. The Nuremberg Laws set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation.
- Nazis then issued additional anti-Jews laws over the next several years. For example, some of these laws excluded Jews from places like parks, fired them from civil service jobs (i.e. government jobs), made Jews register their property, and prevented Jewish doctors from working on anyone other than Jewish patients.

The article continues on the next page.





- During the night of November 9-10, 1938, Nazis incited a program against Jews in Austria and Germany in what has been termed, "Kristallnacht" ("Night of Broken Glass"). This night of violence included the pillaging and burning of synagogues, breaking the windows of Jewish-owned businesses, the looting of these stores, and many Jews were also physically attacked. Additionally, approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- After World War II started in 1939, the Nazis began ordering Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing so that Jews could be easily recognized and targeted.

## Ghettos

- After the beginning of World War II, Nazis began ordering all Jews to live within certain, very specific, areas of big cities, called ghettos.
- Jews were forced out of their homes and moved into smaller apartments, often shared with other families.
- Some ghettos started out as "open," which meant that Jews could leave the area during the daytime but often had to be back within the ghetto by a curfew. Later, all ghettos became "closed," which meant that Jews were trapped within the confines of the ghetto and not allowed to leave.
- A few of the major ghettos were located in the cities of Bialystok, Kovno, Lodz, Minsk, Riga, Vilna, and Warsaw.
- The largest ghetto was in Warsaw, with its highest population reaching 445,000 in March 1941.
- In most ghettos, Nazis ordered the Jews to establish a Judenrat (a Jewish council) to both administer Nazi demands and to regulate the internal life of the ghetto.
- Nazis would then order deportations from the ghettos. In some of the large ghettos, 1,000 people per day were loaded up in trains and sent to either a concentration camp or a death camp.
- To get them to cooperate, the Nazis told the Jews they were being transported to another place for labor.
- When the Nazis decided to kill the remaining Jews in a ghetto, they would "liquidate" a ghetto by boarding the last Jews in the ghetto on trains.
- When the Nazis attempted to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto on April 13, 1943, the remaining Jews fought back in what has become known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Jewish resistance fighters held out against the entire Nazi regime for 28 days -- longer than many European countries had been able to withstand Nazi conquest.

The article continues on the next page.



## Concentration and Extermination Camps

- Although many people refer to all Nazi camps as "concentration camps," there were actually a number of different kinds of camps, including concentration camps, extermination camps, labor camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and transit camps. ([Map](#))
- One of the first concentration camps was Dachau, which opened on March 20, 1933.
- From 1933 until 1938, most of the prisoners in the concentration camps were political prisoners (i.e. people who spoke or acted in some way against Hitler or the Nazis) and people the Nazis labeled as "asocial."
- After Kristallnacht in 1938, the persecution of Jews became more organized. This led to the exponential increase in the number of Jews sent to concentration camps.
- Life within Nazi concentration camps was horrible. Prisoners were forced to do hard physical labor and yet given tiny rations. Prisoners slept three or more people per crowded wooden bunk (no mattress or pillow). Torture within the concentration camps was common and deaths were frequent.
- At a number of Nazi concentration camps, Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on prisoners against their will.
- While concentration camps were meant to work and starve prisoners to death, extermination camps (also known as death camps) were built for the sole purpose of killing large groups of people quickly and efficiently.
- The Nazis built six extermination camps: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek. (Auschwitz and Majdanek were both concentration and extermination camps.)
- Prisoners transported to these extermination camps were told to undress to take a shower. Rather than a shower, the prisoners were herded into gas chambers and killed. (At Chelmno, the prisoners were herded into gas vans instead of gas chambers.)
- Auschwitz was the largest concentration and extermination camp built. It is estimated that 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm>

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## Source #2

### Is the Holocaust a Hoax?

Within five minutes, any intelligent, open-minded person can be convinced that the Holocaust gassings of World War II are a profitable hoax.

Fred A. Leuchter is America's leading specialist on the design and fabrication of execution equipment, including homicidal gas chambers. In 1988, Leuchter scraped samples from the alleged gas chamber walls in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Lublin. Cyanide residue would be clearly evident on all these walls if gassings did occur. To his astonishment, Leuchter found no significant cyanide traces in any one of these rooms.

In 1991, the Polish government repeated these tests to disprove Leuchter's findings, but they as well found no evidence of any gassings ever occurring.

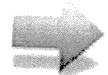
The structural integrity of these "gas chambers" is also extremely faulty. These rooms have ordinary doors and windows which are not hermetically sealed! There are large gaps between the floors and doors. If the Germans had attempted to gas anyone in these rooms, they would have died themselves, as the gas would have leaked and contaminated the entire area. Also, no equipment exists to exhaust the air-gas mixture from these buildings. Nothing was made to introduce or distribute the gas throughout the chambers. There are no provisions to prevent condensation of gas on the walls, floors or ceilings. No exhaust stacks have ever existed.

Though six million Jews supposedly died in the gas chambers, not one body has ever been autopsied and found to have died of gas poisoning. We have been shown piles of bodies from World War II, but most of these persons died of typhus or starvation or Allied bombings and a great many of those were murdered Germans, not Jews. Roughly the equivalent of ten football fields should be packed full of gassed bodies to present as evidence, yet not one body has ever been discovered.

The Germans documented everything in meticulous detail from shrubbery to arbors, but no pre-war or wartime plans or documents exist that detail or even mention any gas chambers for reasons of genocide. All documents ever presented were drawn up AFTER the war.

Even if we threw away all the evidence and accounted for every so-called gas chamber, it would have taken 68 YEARS to accomplish gassing six million Jews!

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Even *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a hoax. Portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen. These pens were not in use at the time Anne Frank lived.

It is not denied concentration camps existed. Tragically, many died of typhus or starvation, as often happens in such situations. There is, however, no evidence that any gassings occurred for the reasons of genocide.

Israel continues to receive trillions of dollars worldwide as retribution for Holocaust gassings. Our country has donated more money to Israel than to any other country in the history of the world -- over \$35 billion per year, everything included. If not for our extravagantly generous gifts to Israel, every family in America could afford a brand new Mercedes Benz. Surely the American people would be outraged if they realized their hard-earned money is being squandered during these difficult times.

With all this money at stake for Israel, it is easy to comprehend why this Holocaust hoax is so secretly guarded. The Jewish name for Holocaust is "Shoah." In Zionist circles, it is known as "*Shoah Business*." If nothing else, this unbelievable cover-up demonstrates the irrepressible Zionist influence and control of our country. Their only defense against the facts is to cry out "Antisemitic," "Skinhead" or "Nazi," whereas the majority of those who question the Holocaust are ordinary citizens...though you would never know it from the media.

In whatever way you can, please help shatter this profitable myth. It is time we stop sacrificing America's welfare for the sake of Israel and spend our hard-earned dollars on Americans.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the so-called Holocaust never existed. Page 223, in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, (Pan Horizons edition, Pan Books Ltd., London, 1989), indicates that the size of Auschwitz, the most notorious of all German work camps, WAS VERY SMALL, with only 11,000 people (many of whom may not even have been Jews) being evacuated by the Germans at the time of the Russian advance in 1945. Certainly, compared to Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List* (which Emilie Schindler, Oskar's widow, said was full of lies), and other Jewish propaganda, that millions upon millions of Jews were systematically exterminated, 11,000 people is a very small number. Simple arithmetic tells us that the Germans would have had to have had hundreds of camps, or else they would have had to exterminate 137 people PER HOUR, in order for six million Jews to have been exterminated at such small camps as Auschwitz, a feat that would have been humanly impossible considering that, according to Douglas Reed's *Behind the Scene* and *The Controversy of Zion*, a mere 850,000 soldiers and others were killed by the entire German and Japanese war machines combined during WW2 (see p.397-400 of Douglas Reed's book *Controversy of Zion*). People who would believe the Jewish propaganda that six million Jews were exterminated by Hitler must KEEP IN MIND THE SMALL SCALE CONSTRUCTION OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE VERY FEW OTHER GERMAN WORK CAMPS THAT EXISTED



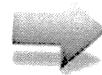
**DURING WW2.**

On July 13, 1994, a documentary on the life of Charles A. Lindbergh broadcast on the Public Broadcast System (PBS - KENW-TV) said that when Lindbergh visited one of these few camps in Germany following WW2, he was told that 25,000 died in 1-1/2 years. Again, simple arithmetic tells us that 25,000 times a half dozen camps does not equal 6,000,000. In fact, it doesn't even equal 600,000. . . .

It is an interesting fact that the number of so-called persecuted Jews **KEEPS INCREASING**. Hal Greenwald, program director for the Hillel Foundation at Duke University, a Jewish student group, has been promoting the idea that **NINE MILLION JEWS WERE EXTERMINATED IN HITLER'S GAS CHAMBERS** (New York Times, Nov. 9, 1991, AP). **NOW IT'S 9 MILLION AND GROWING. ..JUST LIKE OUR DEBT/TAX MONEY SUPPLY...THE NUMBERS JUST KEEP COMING OUT OF THIN AIR. . .(The Bible Caused Economic and Financial Slavery in the New World Order by Lee Cheney).**

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holohoax.htm>

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## Source #3

### Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism & Hitler's Rise to Power

Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1870s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust--even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine. The Enlightenment, during the 17th and 18th centuries, emphasized religious toleration, and in the 19th century Napoleon and other European rulers enacted legislation that ended long-standing restrictions on Jews. Anti-Semitic feeling endured, however, in many cases taking on a racial character rather than a religious one.

The roots of Hitler's particularly virulent brand of anti-Semitism are unclear. Born in Austria in 1889, he served in the German army during World War I. Like many anti-Semites in Germany, he blamed the Jews for the country's defeat in 1918. Soon after the war ended, Hitler joined the National German Workers' Party, which became the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), known to English speakers as the Nazis. While imprisoned for treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Hitler wrote the memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle), in which he predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany." Hitler was obsessed with the idea of the superiority of the "pure" German race, which he called "Aryan," and with the need for "Lebensraum," or living space, for that race to expand. In the decade after he was released from prison, Hitler took advantage of the weakness of his rivals to enhance his party's status and rise from obscurity to power. On January 30, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. After President Paul von Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler anointed himself as "Führer," becoming Germany's supreme ruler.

#### Nazi Revolution in Germany, 1933-1939

The twin goals of racial purity and spatial expansion were the core of Hitler's worldview, and from 1933 onward they would combine to form the driving force behind his foreign and domestic policy. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau (near Munich) in March 1933, and many of the



first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel (SS), and later chief of the German police. By July 1933, German concentration camps (Konzentrationslager in German, or KZ) held some 27,000 people in "protective custody." Huge Nazi rallies and symbolic acts such as the public burning of books by Jews, Communists, liberals and foreigners helped drive home the desired message of party strength.

In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 525,000, or only 1 percent of the total German population. During the next six years, Nazis undertook an "Aryanization" of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans from civil service, liquidating Jewish-owned businesses and stripping Jewish lawyers and doctors of their clients. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge (half-breeds). Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. This culminated in Kristallnacht, or the "night of broken glass" in November 1938, when German synagogues were burned and windows in Jewish shops were smashed; some 100 Jews were killed and thousands more arrested. From 1933 to 1939, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear.

### Beginning of War , 1939-1940

In September 1939, the German army occupied the western half of Poland. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans (non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German), Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus.

The article continues on the next page.



Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1939, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945 some 275,000 people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust.

### Towards the "Final Solution," 1940-1941

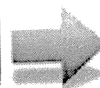
Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, the German army expanded Hitler's empire in Europe, conquering Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Beginning in 1941, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 500,000 Soviet Jews and others (usually by shooting) over the course of the German occupation.

A memorandum dated July 31, 1941, from Hitler's top commander Hermann Goering to Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (the security service of the SS), referred to the need for an Endlösung (Final Solution) to "the Jewish question." Beginning in September 1941, every person designated as a Jew in German-held territory was marked with a yellow star, making them open targets. Tens of thousands were soon being deported to the Polish ghettos and German-occupied cities in the USSR. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. That August, 500 officials gassed 500 Soviet POWs to death with the pesticide Zyklon-B. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust.

### Holocaust Death Camps, 1941-1945

Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least

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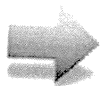
useful: the sick, old and weak and the very young. The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 300,000 people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone.

Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. During the summer of 1944, even as the events of D-Day (June 6, 1944) and a Soviet offensive the same month spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in the war, a large proportion of Hungary's Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and as many as 12,000 Jews were killed every day.

### **Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, 1945**

By the spring of 1945, German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. In his last will and political testament, dictated in a German bunker that April 29, Hitler blamed the war on "International Jewry and its helpers" and urged the German leaders and people to follow "the strict observance of the racial laws and with merciless resistance against the universal poisoners of all peoples"--the Jews. The following day, he committed suicide. Germany's formal surrender in World War II came barely a week later, on May 8, 1945.

The article continues on the next page.



German forces had begun evacuating many of the death camps in the fall of 1944, sending inmates under guard to march further from the advancing enemy's front line. These so-called "death marches" continued all the way up to the German surrender, resulting in the deaths of some 250,000 to 375,000 people. In his classic book "Survival in Auschwitz," the Italian Jewish author Primo Levi described his own state of mind, as well as that of his fellow inmates in Auschwitz on the day before Soviet troops arrived at the camp in January 1945: "We lay in a world of death and phantoms. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat."

### **Aftermath & Lasting Impact of the Holocaust**

The wounds of the Holocaust--known in Hebrew as Shoah, or catastrophe--were slow to heal. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late 1940s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46, which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in 1948.

Over the decades that followed, ordinary Germans struggled with the Holocaust's bitter legacy, as survivors and the families of victims sought restitution of wealth and property confiscated during the Nazi years. Beginning in 1953, the German government made payments to individual Jews and to the Jewish people as a way of acknowledging the German people's responsibility for the crimes committed in their name.

<http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust>

**Use the next page to record additional information from your independent research of the websites and library materials that support your claim. Make sure to cite the sources where you find additional information.**



Please write research information from additional sources in the chart below.

<b>Additional Source:</b>  The holocaust	<b>Research States:</b>
<b>Additional Source:</b>  Is the Holocaust a Hoax?	<b>Research States:</b>
<b>Additional Source:</b>	<b>Research States:</b>
<b>Additional Source</b>	<b>Research States:</b>

Please continue to the next page.



## Independent Questions for Days 1-3

Based upon your research, answer the questions below independently. Your answers to these questions will help you analyze your research. You may refer back to the articles with your notes and annotations at any time. Answer each question in the space provided. Remember that questions may have multiple parts.

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, what is the claim for your argumentative research essay? (Was the Holocaust an actual tragic historical event or a propaganda tool?)

Claim:

I think that the Holocaust really happened because there was proof and even wars. There was also diaries of kids of 13 years old who were writing about the Holocaust.

Source	Textual Evidence Quoted or Paraphrased	Justification for How Evidence Supports My Claim
Source #1 Holocaust	The Holocaust In 1933, 11 million people were killed by the Holocaust	
Source #2: Is the Holocaust a Hoax		
Source #3:		
Source #4:		
Source #5:		

Please continue to the next page.

In the chart below, state and justify the best textual evidence from each source

2. Based upon the sources, what are the best examples of textual evidence (facts, statistics, quotations, etc.) that support a possible COUNTERCLAIM? Justify how each piece of evidence supports a possible counterclaim.

Source	Possible Counter Claim	Textual Evidence, Quoted or Paraphrased, Supporting Possible Counter Claim	Justification How does this evidence support the counter claim?
Source #1:			
Source #2:			
Source #3:			
Source #4:			
Source #5:			



3. Was the Holocaust an actual historical event, or was it an example of political propaganda? If your claim is adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to prevent acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

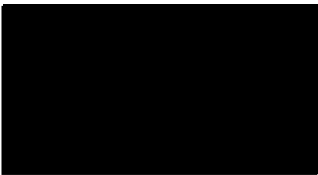
The Holocaust was an actual historical event, because there was proof that the Holocaust was an actual historical event. I believe that it was real, because people that survived the Holocaust described what it was, an actual event. For example, "The Diary of Anne Frank". Most kids also wrote about the Holocaust while it was happening.

If your claim is not adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

I think that our society would be more less inclined of mean acts like the Holocaust a lot of people died. I don't think that people would ever let others acts affect each other, because our society have seen and been through mean and unforgiving things, for example the Holocaust people suffered from hiding and have explained what it really happened that's why I think it would be more less inclined our acts.



You have completed Part 1 of the assessment.



## Part 2, Day 4 (40 minutes)

### Directions:

Today, you will be working in a small group of three to four students. As a group, engage in academic discussion of the questions below. You may refer to annotations and notes you made during your research and to your personal responses to the three questions you answered in Part 1 of the assessment.

As you participate in today's discussion, write down other people's ideas in your notes, as well as new ideas you form based upon the discussion.

### Academic Discussion Questions:

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, which claim has the strongest supporting evidence? Note: Reference the chart on page 14.

Discussion Notes: Source #1; 1000 people per day were loaded up  
in trains and sent to either a concentration  
camp or a death camp.

2. Based upon the sources, what textual evidence best supports the strongest **COUNTERCLAIM**. Note: Reference the chart on page 15.

Discussion Notes: Source #2; Many people died of typhus or starvation.

3. Based upon your group discussion, did you change your personal claim? Why or why not based upon evidence discussed?

Discussion Notes: Source #3; The next six years, Nazis undertook  
'Aryanization' of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans  
from civil service.



You have completed Part 2 of the assessment.

## Part 3, Days 5, 6, and 7 (135 minutes)

**Directions:** Over the next three days, you will have 135 minutes to review your notes, plan, draft, and revise your essay. Remember, your essay must contain parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page. You may use the three research articles, your independent research, your annotations of the articles, your notes and responses to the independent questions from Part 1, and your discussion notes from Part 2. You must complete the argumentative essay on your own. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored. Then, begin your work.

### Your Writing Assignment:

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual historical event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. Based upon your research on this issue, write an argumentative essay, utilizing cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe the Holocaust was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim. You are also required to use parenthetical(internal) citations and to provide a Works Cited page.

**How your argumentative essay will be scored:** The person scoring your essay will be assigning scores for the following:

1. **Ideas** – how well you state your claim and support your claim with credible evidence from the articles
2. **Organization** – how well your ideas flow from the opening to the conclusion and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Word Choice** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
4. **Sentence Fluency** – how well your sentences have flow, rhythm, cadence, and are built with strong, varied structures
5. **Conventions** – how well you use standard writing conventions to effectively enhance the readability of your essay

Now, begin work on your essay. Manage your time carefully so that you have time to:

- plan your essay
- write your essay
- revise and edit before writing your final copy of the essay





# The Holocaust

In 1933, when the Holocaust Supposable Started, which was when Adolf Hitler was the leader of the Nazi. Hitler was born in Austria in 1889, he served in the army during World War I. (Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism and Hitler's Rise to power 8) Hitler wanted to be Superior, also wanted to exterminate the Jewish. (8) The Holocaust was a tragic event in history.

Some people think the Holocaust was a hoax. I agree with them, there is lots of evidence why people would think that, and I will be give you some of that evidence.

One reason I think the Holocaust is a hoax is, "The Diary of Anne Frank". "Portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen. Ball point pen weren't in use at the time Anne Frank lived". (Is the Holocaust a Hoax 6) "And the other diaries they found were drawn up after the war." (5)

Another reason I believe the Holocaust was not real; is the gas chambers. They never found any bodys that were gased. "The rooms where the Jews were Supposable gased had ordinary doors and windows which were not hermetically sealed. (5) "Also, no equipment exists to exhaust the air-gas throughout the chambers."

(5) But, the Germans burned the bodies. In 1991, the Polish government repeated these tests that no evidence of any gassings ever occurring. (5)

The last evidence is why would the Nazi take the Jews to Concentration Camp if they could just kill them there. And waste fuel of a train to take the Jews there.

Some people think the holocaust is real, well I disagree with them.

## Works Cited

"Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism  
and Hitler's Rise to Power"

< [http://www.history.com/topics/  
the-holocaust](http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust) >

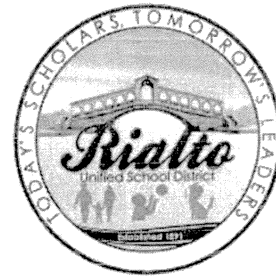
"Is the Holocaust a Hoax?"

< [http://www.biblebelievers.org  
.au/holohoax.htm](http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holohoax.htm) >

"The Holocaust"

< [http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/  
a/holocaustfacts.htm](http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm) >

Rialto Unified School District  
Grade 8 ELA Performance Task, Student Booklet  
Argumentative Writing/Research  
Quarter 3



**Student Directions:**

**Part 1, Days 1, 2, and 3 (135 minutes)**

**Your assignment:**

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. You will read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim.

**Steps you will be following:**

In order to plan and compose your argumentative essay based on research, you will do all of the following:

- 1) Read and analyze information from multiple, credible sources.
- 2) Independently answer three questions based on these sources.
- 3) Engage in academic discussion, take notes, and respond to three questions.
- 4) Based on your research, plan and write your argumentative essay including the use of parenthetical(internal) citations and a Works Cited page.

**Directions for beginning:**

You will now read and annotate the three articles provided. If your teacher allows you to, you may also conduct independent research from the websites

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust> and

<http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Holocaust/websites.html> or from materials at the library.

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #1

# “The Holocaust”

## What Does Holocaust Mean?

- The Holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers.
- The term "Holocaust," originally from the Greek word "Holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire," refers to the Nazi's persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people. The Hebrew word "Shoah," which means "devastation, ruin, or waste," is also used for this genocide.
- In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the disabled for persecution. Anyone who resisted the Nazis was sent to forced labor or murdered.
- The term "Nazi" is an acronym for "National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" ("National Socialist German Worker's Party").
- The Nazis used the term "The Final Solution" to refer to their plan to murder the Jewish people.

## The Big Numbers

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust.

## Persecution Begins

- On April 1, 1933, the Nazis instigated their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run businesses.
- The Nuremberg Laws, issued on September 15, 1935, began to exclude Jews from public life. The Nuremberg Laws included a law that stripped German Jews of their citizenship and a law that prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans. The Nuremberg Laws set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation.
- Nazis then issued additional anti-Jews laws over the next several years. For example, some of these laws excluded Jews from places like parks, fired them from civil service jobs (i.e. government jobs), made Jews register their property, and prevented Jewish doctors from working on anyone other than Jewish patients.

The article continues on the next page.



- During the night of November 9-10, 1938, Nazis incited a program against Jews in Austria and Germany in what has been termed, "Kristallnacht" ("Night of Broken Glass"). This night of violence included the pillaging and burning of synagogues, breaking the windows of Jewish-owned businesses, the looting of these stores, and many Jews were also physically attacked. Additionally, approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- After World War II started in 1939, the Nazis began ordering Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing so that Jews could be easily recognized and targeted.

## Ghettos

- After the beginning of World War II, Nazis began ordering all Jews to live within certain, very specific, areas of big cities, called ghettos.
- Jews were forced out of their homes and moved into smaller apartments, often shared with other families.
- Some ghettos started out as "open," which meant that Jews could leave the area during the daytime but often had to be back within the ghetto by a curfew. Later, all ghettos became "closed," which meant that Jews were trapped within the confines of the ghetto and not allowed to leave.
- A few of the major ghettos were located in the cities of Bialystok, Kovno, Lodz, Minsk, Riga, Vilna, and Warsaw.
- The largest ghetto was in Warsaw, with its highest population reaching 445,000 in March 1941.
- In most ghettos, Nazis ordered the Jews to establish a Judenrat (a Jewish council) to both administer Nazi demands and to regulate the internal life of the ghetto.
- Nazis would then order deportations from the ghettos. In some of the large ghettos, 1,000 people per day were loaded up in trains and sent to either a concentration camp or a death camp.
- To get them to cooperate, the Nazis told the Jews they were being transported to another place for labor.
- When the Nazis decided to kill the remaining Jews in a ghetto, they would "liquidate" a ghetto by boarding the last Jews in the ghetto on trains.
- When the Nazis attempted to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto on April 13, 1943, the remaining Jews fought back in what has become known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Jewish resistance fighters held out against the entire Nazi regime for 28 days -- longer than many European countries had been able to withstand Nazi conquest.

The article continues on the next page.

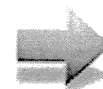


## Concentration and Extermination Camps

- Although many people refer to all Nazi camps as "concentration camps," there were actually a number of different kinds of camps, including concentration camps, extermination camps, labor camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and transit camps. ([Map](#))
- One of the first concentration camps was Dachau, which opened on March 20, 1933.
- From 1933 until 1938, most of the prisoners in the concentration camps were political prisoners (i.e. people who spoke or acted in some way against Hitler or the Nazis) and people the Nazis labeled as "asocial."
- After Kristallnacht in 1938, the persecution of Jews became more organized. This led to the exponential increase in the number of Jews sent to concentration camps.
- Life within Nazi concentration camps was horrible. Prisoners were forced to do hard physical labor and yet given tiny rations. Prisoners slept three or more people per crowded wooden bunk (no mattress or pillow). Torture within the concentration camps was common and deaths were frequent.
- At a number of Nazi concentration camps, Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on prisoners against their will.
- While concentration camps were meant to work and starve prisoners to death, extermination camps (also known as death camps) were built for the sole purpose of killing large groups of people quickly and efficiently.
- The Nazis built six extermination camps: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek. (Auschwitz and Majdanek were both concentration and extermination camps.)
- Prisoners transported to these extermination camps were told to undress to take a shower. Rather than a shower, the prisoners were herded into gas chambers and killed. (At Chelmno, the prisoners were herded into gas vans instead of gas chambers.)
- Auschwitz was the largest concentration and extermination camp built. It is estimated that 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm>

Please continue to the next page.





## Source #2

### Is the Holocaust a Hoax?

Within five minutes, any intelligent, open-minded person can be convinced that the Holocaust gassings of World War II are a profitable hoax.

Fred A. Leuchter is America's leading specialist on the design and fabrication of execution equipment, including homicidal gas chambers. In 1988, Leuchter scraped samples from the alleged gas chamber walls in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Lublin. Cyanide residue would be clearly evident on all these walls if gassings did occur. To his astonishment, Leuchter found no significant cyanide traces in any one of these rooms.

In 1991, the Polish government repeated these tests to disprove Leuchter's findings, but they as well found no evidence of any gassings ever occurring.

The structural integrity of these "gas chambers" is also extremely faulty. These rooms have ordinary doors and windows which are not hermetically sealed! There are large gaps between the floors and doors. If the Germans had attempted to gas anyone in these rooms, they would have died themselves, as the gas would have leaked and contaminated the entire area. Also, no equipment exists to exhaust the air-gas mixture from these buildings. Nothing was made to introduce or distribute the gas throughout the chambers. There are no provisions to prevent condensation of gas on the walls, floors or ceilings. No exhaust stacks have ever existed.

Though six million Jews supposedly died in the gas chambers, not one body has ever been autopsied and found to have died of gas poisoning. We have been shown piles of bodies from World War II, but most of these persons died of typhus or starvation or Allied bombings and a great many of those were murdered Germans, not Jews. Roughly the equivalent of ten football fields should be packed full of gassed bodies to present as evidence, yet not one body has ever been discovered.

The Germans documented everything in meticulous detail from shrubbery to arbors, but no pre-war or wartime plans or documents exist that detail or even mention any gas chambers for reasons of genocide. All documents ever presented were drawn up AFTER the war.

Even if we threw away all the evidence and accounted for every so-called gas chamber, it would have taken 68 YEARS to accomplish gassing six million Jews!

Please continue to the next page.



Even *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a hoax. Portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen. These pens were not in use at the time Anne Frank lived.

It is not denied concentration camps existed. Tragically, many died of typhus or starvation, as often happens in such situations. There is, however, no evidence that any gassings occurred for the reasons of genocide.

Israel continues to receive trillions of dollars worldwide as retribution for Holocaust gassings. Our country has donated more money to Israel than to any other country in the history of the world -- over \$35 billion per year, everything included. If not for our extravagantly generous gifts to Israel, every family in America could afford a brand new Mercedes Benz. Surely the American people would be outraged if they realized their hard-earned money is being squandered during these difficult times.

With all this money at stake for Israel, it is easy to comprehend why this Holocaust hoax is so secretly guarded. The Jewish name for Holocaust is "Shoah." In Zionist circles, it is known as "*Shoah Business*." If nothing else, this unbelievable cover-up demonstrates the irrepressible Zionist influence and control of our country. Their only defense against the facts is to cry out "Antisemitic," "Skinhead" or "Nazi," whereas the majority of those who question the Holocaust are ordinary citizens...though you would never know it from the media.

In whatever way you can, please help shatter this profitable myth. It is time we stop sacrificing America's welfare for the sake of Israel and spend our hard-earned dollars on Americans.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the so-called Holocaust never existed. Page 223, in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, (Pan Horizons edition, Pan Books Ltd., London, 1989), indicates that the size of Auschwitz, the most notorious of all German work camps, WAS VERY SMALL, with only 11,000 people (many of whom may not even have been Jews) being evacuated by the Germans at the time of the Russian advance in 1945. Certainly, compared to Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List* (which Emilie Schindler, Oskar's widow, said was full of lies), and other Jewish propaganda, that millions upon millions of Jews were systematically exterminated, 11,000 people is a very small number. Simple arithmetic tells us that the Germans would have had to have had hundreds of camps, or else they would have had to exterminate 137 people PER HOUR, in order for six million Jews to have been exterminated at such small camps as Auschwitz, a feat that would have been humanly impossible considering that, according to Douglas Reed's *Behind the Scene* and *The Controversy of Zion*, a mere 850,000 soldiers and others were killed by the entire German and Japanese war machines combined during WW2 (see p.397-400 of Douglas Reed's book *Controversy of Zion*). People who would believe the Jewish propaganda that six million Jews were exterminated by Hitler must KEEP IN MIND THE SMALL SCALE CONSTRUCTION OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE VERY FEW OTHER GERMAN WORK CAMPS THAT EXISTED



DURING WW2.

On July 13, 1994, a documentary on the life of Charles A. Lindbergh broadcast on the Public Broadcast System (PBS - KENW-TV) said that when Lindbergh visited one of these few camps in Germany following WW2, he was told that 25,000 died in 1-1/2 years. Again, simple arithmetic tells us that 25,000 times a half dozen camps does not equal 6,000,000. In fact, it doesn't even equal 600,000. . . .

It is an interesting fact that the number of so-called persecuted Jews **KEEPS INCREASING**. Hal Greenwald, program director for the Hillel Foundation at Duke University, a Jewish student group, has been promoting the idea that **NINE MILLION JEWS WERE EXTERMINATED IN HITLER'S GAS CHAMBERS** (New York Times, Nov. 9, 1991, AP). **NOW IT'S 9 MILLION AND GROWING. ..JUST LIKE OUR DEBT/TAX MONEY SUPPLY...THE NUMBERS JUST KEEP COMING OUT OF THIN AIR. . .(The Bible Caused Economic and Financial Slavery in the New World Order by Lee Cheney).**

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holohoax.htm>

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## Source #3

### Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism & Hitler's Rise to Power

Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1870s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust--even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine. The Enlightenment, during the 17th and 18th centuries, emphasized religious toleration, and in the 19th century Napoleon and other European rulers enacted legislation that ended long-standing restrictions on Jews. Anti-Semitic feeling endured, however, in many cases taking on a racial character rather than a religious one.

The roots of Hitler's particularly virulent brand of anti-Semitism are unclear. Born in Austria in 1889, he served in the German army during World War I. Like many anti-Semites in Germany, he blamed the Jews for the country's defeat in 1918. Soon after the war ended, Hitler joined the National German Workers' Party, which became the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), known to English speakers as the Nazis. While imprisoned for treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Hitler wrote the memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle), in which he predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany." Hitler was obsessed with the idea of the superiority of the "pure" German race, which he called "Aryan," and with the need for "Lebensraum," or living space, for that race to expand. In the decade after he was released from prison, Hitler took advantage of the weakness of his rivals to enhance his party's status and rise from obscurity to power. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. After President Paul von Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler anointed himself as "Führer," becoming Germany's supreme ruler.

#### Nazi Revolution in Germany, 1933-1939

The twin goals of racial purity and spatial expansion were the core of Hitler's worldview, and from 1933 onward they would combine to form the driving force behind his foreign and domestic policy. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau (near Munich) in March 1933, and many of the

The article continues on the next page.



first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel (SS), and later chief of the German police. By July 1933, German concentration camps (Konzentrationslager in German, or KZ) held some 27,000 people in "protective custody." Huge Nazi rallies and symbolic acts such as the public burning of books by Jews, Communists, liberals and foreigners helped drive home the desired message of party strength.

In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 525,000, or only 1 percent of the total German population. During the next six years, Nazis undertook an "Aryanization" of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans from civil service, liquidating Jewish-owned businesses and stripping Jewish lawyers and doctors of their clients. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge (half-breeds). Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. This culminated in Kristallnacht, or the "night of broken glass" in November 1938, when German synagogues were burned and windows in Jewish shops were smashed; some 100 Jews were killed and thousands more arrested. From 1933 to 1939, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear.

### **Beginning of War , 1939-1940**

In September 1939, the German army occupied the western half of Poland. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans (non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German), Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus.

The article continues on the next page.



Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1939, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945 some 275,000 people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust.

### **Towards the "Final Solution," 1940-1941**

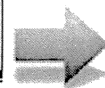
Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, the German army expanded Hitler's empire in Europe, conquering Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Beginning in 1941, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 500,000 Soviet Jews and others (usually by shooting) over the course of the German occupation.

A memorandum dated July 31, 1941, from Hitler's top commander Hermann Goering to Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (the security service of the SS), referred to the need for an Endlösung (Final Solution) to "the Jewish question." Beginning in September 1941, every person designated as a Jew in German-held territory was marked with a yellow star, making them open targets. Tens of thousands were soon being deported to the Polish ghettos and German-occupied cities in the USSR. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. That August, 500 officials gassed 500 Soviet POWs to death with the pesticide Zyklon-B. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust.

### **Holocaust Death Camps, 1941-1945**

Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least

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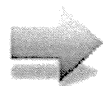
useful: the sick, old and weak and the very young. The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 300,000 people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone.

Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. During the summer of 1944, even as the events of D-Day (June 6, 1944) and a Soviet offensive the same month spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in the war, a large proportion of Hungary's Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and as many as 12,000 Jews were killed every day.

### **Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, 1945**

By the spring of 1945, German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. In his last will and political testament, dictated in a German bunker that April 29, Hitler blamed the war on "International Jewry and its helpers" and urged the German leaders and people to follow "the strict observance of the racial laws and with merciless resistance against the universal poisoners of all peoples"--the Jews. The following day, he committed suicide. Germany's formal surrender in World War II came barely a week later, on May 8, 1945.

The article continues on the next page.



German forces had begun evacuating many of the death camps in the fall of 1944, sending inmates under guard to march further from the advancing enemy's front line. These so-called "death marches" continued all the way up to the German surrender, resulting in the deaths of some 250,000 to 375,000 people. In his classic book "Survival in Auschwitz," the Italian Jewish author Primo Levi described his own state of mind, as well as that of his fellow inmates in Auschwitz on the day before Soviet troops arrived at the camp in January 1945: "We lay in a world of death and phantoms. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat."

### **Aftermath & Lasting Impact of the Holocaust**

The wounds of the Holocaust--known in Hebrew as Shoah, or catastrophe--were slow to heal. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late 1940s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46, which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in 1948.

Over the decades that followed, ordinary Germans struggled with the Holocaust's bitter legacy, as survivors and the families of victims sought restitution of wealth and property confiscated during the Nazi years. Beginning in 1953, the German government made payments to individual Jews and to the Jewish people as a way of acknowledging the German people's responsibility for the crimes committed in their name.

<http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust>

**Use the next page to record additional information from your independent research of the websites and library materials that support your claim. Make sure to cite the sources where you find additional information.**





Please write research information from additional sources in the chart below.

Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source:	Research States:
Additional Source:	Research States:

Please continue to the next page.



## Independent Questions for Days 1-3

Based upon your research, answer the questions below independently. Your answers to these questions will help you analyze your research. You may refer back to the articles with your notes and annotations at any time. Answer each question in the space provided. Remember that questions may have multiple parts.

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, what is the claim for your argumentative research essay? (Was the Holocaust an actual tragic historical event or a propaganda tool?)

Claim:  
I believe the Holocaust was an actual tragic in  
historical event.

Source	Textual Evidence Quoted or Paraphrased	Justification for How Evidence Supports My Claim
Source #1 "The Holocaust"	The holocaust began when Hitler came to power in Germany. PG. 2	Hitler came to power in 1933 right when the holocaust started, PG. 2
Source #2: "Is the Holocaust a Hoax?"		
Source #3: "Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism and Hitler's Rise to Power"		
Source #4:		
Source #5:		

Please continue to the next page.

In the chart below, state and justify the best textual evidence from each source

2. Based upon the sources, what are the best examples of textual evidence (facts, statistics, quotations, etc.) that support a possible COUNTERCLAIM? Justify how each piece of evidence supports a possible counterclaim.

Source	Possible Counter Claim	Textual Evidence, Quoted or Paraphrased, Supporting Possible Counter Claim	Justification How does this evidence support the counter claim?
Source #1:			
Source #2:			
Source #3:			
Source #4:			
Source #5:			

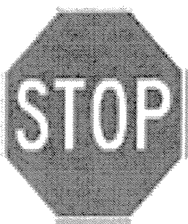


3. Was the Holocaust an actual historical event, or was it an example of political propaganda? If your claim is adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to prevent acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

I believe the Holocaust was an actual historical event, and people today will be less inclined to prevent acts of genocide in our world. I think people wouldn't like to be treated bad for the color of you are or what they believe in.

If your claim is not adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

If the Holocaust didn't exist I think the world would still be lots of racism. The society today would more inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world?



You have completed Part 1 of the assessment.

## Part 2, Day 4 (40 minutes)

### Directions:

Today, you will be working in a small group of three to four students. As a group, engage in academic discussion of the questions below. You may refer to annotations and notes you made during your research and to your personal responses to the three questions you answered in Part 1 of the assessment.

As you participate in today's discussion, write down other people's ideas in your notes, as well as new ideas you form based upon the discussion.

### Academic Discussion Questions:

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, which claim has the strongest supporting evidence? Note: Reference the chart on page 14.

Discussion Notes: Lots of body were found dead.  
They found diaries of people who lived during the  
Holocaust. Also found camps.

2. Based upon the sources, what textual evidence best supports the strongest **COUNTERCLAIM**. Note: Reference the chart on page 15.

Discussion Notes: Anne Frank's was fake because the  
pen she use didn't exist when Anne lived.  
The gas chambers in the camps didn't use because  
they didn't find bodies that were gased.

3. Based upon your group discussion, did you change your personal claim? Why or why not based upon evidence discussed?

Discussion Notes: My personal claim changed because  
most of my evidence was not good enough.



You have completed Part 2 of the assessment.

## Part 3, Days 5, 6, and 7 (135 minutes)

**Directions:** Over the next three days, you will have 135 minutes to review your notes, plan, draft, and revise your essay. Remember, your essay must contain parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page. You may use the three research articles, your independent research, your annotations of the articles, your notes and responses to the independent questions from Part 1, and your discussion notes from Part 2. You must complete the argumentative essay on your own. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored. Then, begin your work.

### Your Writing Assignment:

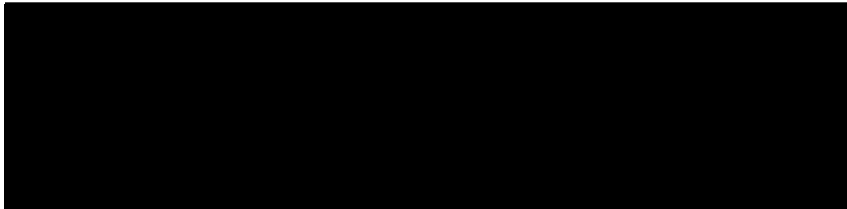
When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual historical event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. Based upon your research on this issue, write an argumentative essay, utilizing cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe the Holocaust was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim. You are also required to use parenthetical(internal) citations and to provide a Works Cited page.

How your argumentative essay will be scored: The person scoring your essay will be assigning scores for the following:

1. **Ideas** – how well you state your claim and support your claim with credible evidence from the articles
2. **Organization** – how well your ideas flow from the opening to the conclusion and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Word Choice** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
4. **Sentence Fluency** – how well your sentences have flow, rhythm, cadence, and are built with strong, varied structures
5. **Conventions** – how well you use standard writing conventions to effectively enhance the readability of your essay

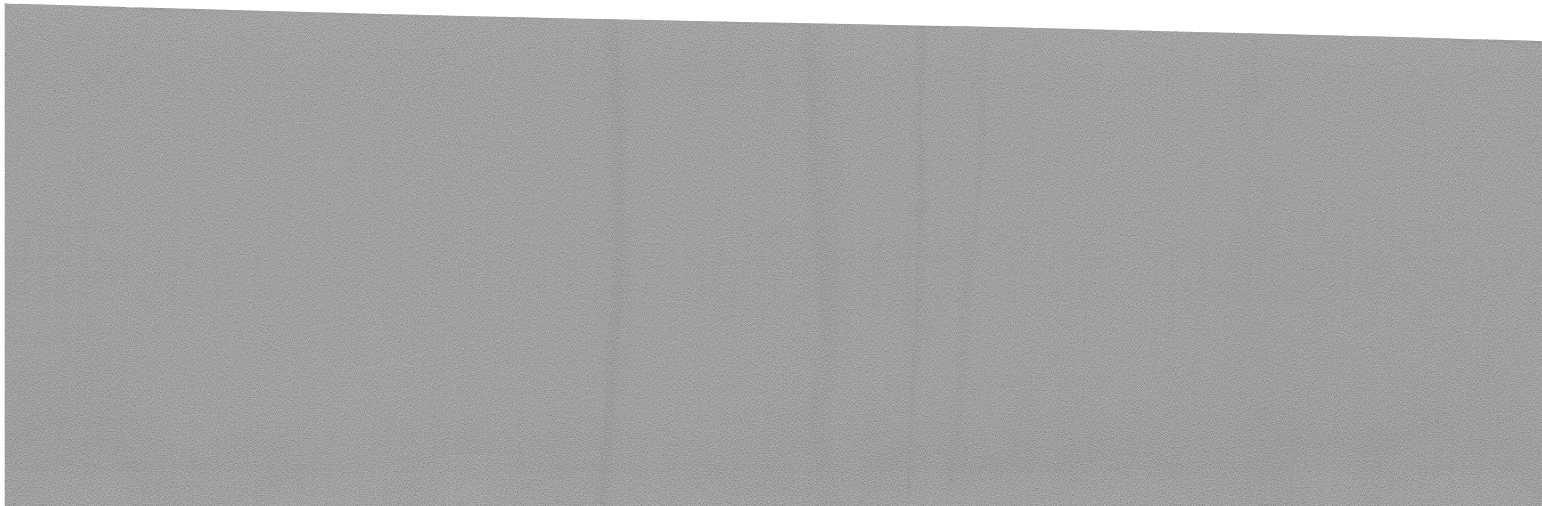
Now, begin work on your essay. Manage your time carefully so that you have time to:

- plan your essay
- write your essay
- revise and edit before writing your final copy of the essay



	0	9	5	0	5	3
Ide	0	0	6	0	0	9
Org	1	1	1	1	1	1
WC	1	2	2	2	2	2
SF	1	3	3	3	3	3
Con	1	4	4	4	4	4
	5	5	5	5	5	5
	6	6	6	6	6	6
	7	7	7	7	7	7
	8	8	8	8	8	8
	9	9	9	9	9	9

73



# The Holocaust

The Holocaust began in 1933. Adolf Hitler was the bad guy. There's many stories that go around about the Holocaust. Several people do NOT believe the Holocaust is real. I myself think the Holocaust was made up for Propagand tools.

Why do I think its for Propagand use? Well simply because no one really was there that is here now. I think that they just wanted money out of it. People say it killed many people, but while people say that I'm trying to find out what really happened. There's many Pictures that could be edit who knows. My quote that has evidence of being Proporgand is "Hostillity toward Jews long before the Holocaust-- even as far back as the ancient world...."

I think my Claim is very good, because yet no one knows what really happened. People make stories about it, they make Plays. T.V shows just to make money out of it. Its all non sense. My Claim says it didn't start with Adolf Hitler. Jorseces say it began in the early 1400's. Yet no ones knows what actually occeried.



People always somehow have their own opinions. People argue about the Holocaust being true. People write poems, stories, etc and well most people do believe it. I have found a quote that explained something to me, the quote said "Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1840s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust - even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine".

The Holocaust obviously did not begin with Adolf Hitler. The Jews were in some trouble and were forced to leave where they were and go somewhere else. My claim is well said. That's all, why I think the Holocaust was used as proporgand.

## Work Cited Page

"Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1870s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust - even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine.

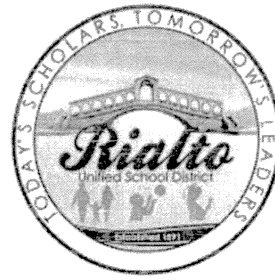
<http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust>.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm>

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holohoax.htm>

"The Holocaust"

"Is the Holocaust a Hoax"



## Student Directions:

### Part 1, Days 1, 2, and 3 (135 minutes)

#### Your assignment:

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. You will read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim.

#### Steps you will be following:

In order to plan and compose your argumentative essay based on research, you will do all of the following:

- 1) Read and analyze information from multiple, credible sources.
- 2) Independently answer three questions based on these sources.
- 3) Engage in academic discussion, take notes, and respond to three questions.
- 4) Based on your research, plan and write your argumentative essay including the use of parenthetical(internal) citations and a Works Cited page.

#### Directions for beginning:

You will now read and annotate the three articles provided. If your teacher allows you to, you may also conduct independent research from the websites

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust> and

<http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Holocaust/websites.html> or from materials at the library.

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #1

# “The Holocaust”

## What Does Holocaust Mean?

- The Holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers.
- The term "Holocaust," originally from the Greek word "Holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire," refers to the Nazi's persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people. The Hebrew word "Shoah," which means "devastation, ruin, or waste," is also used for this genocide.
- In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the disabled for persecution. Anyone who resisted the Nazis was sent to forced labor or murdered.
- The term "Nazi" is an acronym for "National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" ("National Socialist German Worker's Party").
- The Nazis used the term "The Final Solution" to refer to their plan to murder the Jewish people.

## The Big Numbers

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust.

## Persecution Begins

- On April 1, 1933, the Nazis instigated their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run businesses.
- The Nuremberg Laws, issued on September 15, 1935, began to exclude Jews from public life. The Nuremberg Laws included a law that stripped German Jews of their citizenship and a law that prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans. The Nuremberg Laws set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation.
- Nazis then issued additional anti-Jews laws over the next several years. For example, some of these laws excluded Jews from places like parks, fired them from civil service jobs (i.e. government jobs), made Jews register their property, and prevented Jewish doctors from working on anyone other than Jewish patients.

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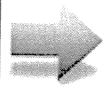


- During the night of November 9-10, 1938, Nazis incited a program against Jews in Austria and Germany in what has been termed, "Kristallnacht" ("Night of Broken Glass"). This night of violence included the pillaging and burning of synagogues, breaking the windows of Jewish-owned businesses, the looting of these stores, and many Jews were also physically attacked. Additionally, approximately 30,000 Jews were arrested and sent to concentration camps.
- After World War II started in 1939, the Nazis began ordering Jews to wear a yellow Star of David on their clothing so that Jews could be easily recognized and targeted.

## Ghettos

- After the beginning of World War II, Nazis began ordering all Jews to live within certain, very specific, areas of big cities, called ghettos.
- Jews were forced out of their homes and moved into smaller apartments, often shared with other families.
- Some ghettos started out as "open," which meant that Jews could leave the area during the daytime but often had to be back within the ghetto by a curfew. Later, all ghettos became "closed," which meant that Jews were trapped within the confines of the ghetto and not allowed to leave.
- A few of the major ghettos were located in the cities of Bialystok, Kovno, Lodz, Minsk, Riga, Vilna, and Warsaw.
- The largest ghetto was in Warsaw, with its highest population reaching 445,000 in March 1941.
- In most ghettos, Nazis ordered the Jews to establish a Judenrat (a Jewish council) to both administer Nazi demands and to regulate the internal life of the ghetto.
- Nazis would then order deportations from the ghettos. In some of the large ghettos, 1,000 people per day were loaded up in trains and sent to either a concentration camp or a death camp.
- To get them to cooperate, the Nazis told the Jews they were being transported to another place for labor.
- When the Nazis decided to kill the remaining Jews in a ghetto, they would "liquidate" a ghetto by boarding the last Jews in the ghetto on trains.
- When the Nazis attempted to liquidate the Warsaw Ghetto on April 13, 1943, the remaining Jews fought back in what has become known as the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. The Jewish resistance fighters held out against the entire Nazi regime for 28 days -- longer than many European countries had been able to withstand Nazi conquest.

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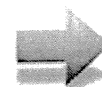


## Concentration and Extermination Camps

- Although many people refer to all Nazi camps as "concentration camps," there were actually a number of different kinds of camps, including concentration camps, extermination camps, labor camps, prisoner-of-war camps, and transit camps. ([Map](#))
- One of the first concentration camps was Dachau, which opened on March 20, 1933.
- From 1933 until 1938, most of the prisoners in the concentration camps were political prisoners (i.e. people who spoke or acted in some way against Hitler or the Nazis) and people the Nazis labeled as "asocial."
- After Kristallnacht in 1938, the persecution of Jews became more organized. This led to the exponential increase in the number of Jews sent to concentration camps.
- Life within Nazi concentration camps was horrible. Prisoners were forced to do hard physical labor and yet given tiny rations. Prisoners slept three or more people per crowded wooden bunk (no mattress or pillow). Torture within the concentration camps was common and deaths were frequent.
- At a number of Nazi concentration camps, Nazi doctors conducted medical experiments on prisoners against their will.
- While concentration camps were meant to work and starve prisoners to death, extermination camps (also known as death camps) were built for the sole purpose of killing large groups of people quickly and efficiently.
- The Nazis built six extermination camps: Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz, and Majdanek. (Auschwitz and Majdanek were both concentration and extermination camps.)
- Prisoners transported to these extermination camps were told to undress to take a shower. Rather than a shower, the prisoners were herded into gas chambers and killed. (At Chelmno, the prisoners were herded into gas vans instead of gas chambers.)
- Auschwitz was the largest concentration and extermination camp built. It is estimated that 1.1 million people were killed at Auschwitz.

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm>

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #2

### Is the Holocaust a Hoax?

Within five minutes, any intelligent, open-minded person can be convinced that the Holocaust gassings of World War II are a profitable hoax.

Fred A. Leuchter is America's leading specialist on the design and fabrication of execution equipment, including homicidal gas chambers. In 1988, Leuchter scraped samples from the alleged gas chamber walls in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Lublin. Cyanide residue would be clearly evident on all these walls if gassings did occur. To his astonishment, Leuchter found no significant cyanide traces in any one of these rooms.

In 1991, the Polish government repeated these tests to disprove Leuchter's findings, but they as well found no evidence of any gassings ever occurring.

The structural integrity of these "gas chambers" is also extremely faulty. These rooms have ordinary doors and windows which are not hermetically sealed! There are large gaps between the floors and doors. If the Germans had attempted to gas anyone in these rooms, they would have died themselves, as the gas would have leaked and contaminated the entire area. Also, no equipment exists to exhaust the air-gas mixture from these buildings. Nothing was made to introduce or distribute the gas throughout the chambers. There are no provisions to prevent condensation of gas on the walls, floors or ceilings. No exhaust stacks have ever existed.

Though six million Jews supposedly died in the gas chambers, not one body has ever been autopsied and found to have died of gas poisoning. We have been shown piles of bodies from World War II, but most of these persons died of typhus or starvation or Allied bombings and a great many of those were murdered Germans, not Jews. Roughly the equivalent of ten football fields should be packed full of gassed bodies to present as evidence, yet not one body has ever been discovered.

The Germans documented everything in meticulous detail from shrubbery to arbors, but no pre-war or wartime plans or documents exist that detail or even mention any gas chambers for reasons of genocide. All documents ever presented were drawn up AFTER the war.

Even if we threw away all the evidence and accounted for every so-called gas chamber, it would have taken 68 YEARS to accomplish gassing six million Jews!

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Even *The Diary of Anne Frank* is a hoax. Portions of the diary were written with a ball point pen. These pens were not in use at the time Anne Frank lived.

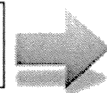
It is not denied concentration camps existed. Tragically, many died of typhus or starvation, as often happens in such situations. There is, however, no evidence that any gassings occurred for the reasons of genocide.

Israel continues to receive trillions of dollars worldwide as retribution for Holocaust gassings. Our country has donated more money to Israel than to any other country in the history of the world -- over \$35 billion per year, everything included. If not for our extravagantly generous gifts to Israel, every family in America could afford a brand new Mercedes Benz. Surely the American people would be outraged if they realized their hard-earned money is being squandered during these difficult times.

With all this money at stake for Israel, it is easy to comprehend why this Holocaust hoax is so secretly guarded. The Jewish name for Holocaust is "Shoah." In Zionist circles, it is known as "*Shoah Business*." If nothing else, this unbelievable cover-up demonstrates the irrepressible Zionist influence and control of our country. Their only defense against the facts is to cry out "Antisemitic," "Skinhead" or "Nazi," whereas the majority of those who question the Holocaust are ordinary citizens...though you would never know it from the media.

In whatever way you can, please help shatter this profitable myth. It is time we stop sacrificing America's welfare for the sake of Israel and spend our hard-earned dollars on Americans.

There are compelling reasons to believe that the so-called Holocaust never existed. Page 223, in *The Diary of Anne Frank*, (Pan Horizons edition, Pan Books Ltd., London, 1989), indicates that the size of Auschwitz, the most notorious of all German work camps, **WAS VERY SMALL**, with only 11,000 people (many of whom may not even have been Jews) being evacuated by the Germans at the time of the Russian advance in 1945. Certainly, compared to Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List* (which Emilie Schindler, Oskar's widow, said was full of lies), and other Jewish propaganda, that millions upon millions of Jews were systematically exterminated, 11,000 people is a very small number. Simple arithmetic tells us that the Germans would have had to have had hundreds of camps, or else they would have had to exterminate 137 people PER HOUR, in order for six million Jews to have been exterminated at such small camps as Auschwitz, a feat that would have been humanly impossible considering that, according to Douglas Reed's *Behind the Scene* and *The Controversy of Zion*, a mere 850,000 soldiers and others were killed by the entire German and Japanese war machines combined during WW2 (see p.397-400 of Douglas Reed's book *Controversy of Zion*). People who would believe the Jewish propaganda that six million Jews were exterminated by Hitler must **KEEP IN MIND THE SMALL SCALE CONSTRUCTION OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE VERY FEW OTHER GERMAN WORK CAMPS THAT EXISTED**





DURING WW2.

On July 13, 1994, a documentary on the life of Charles A. Lindbergh broadcast on the Public Broadcast System (PBS - KENW-TV) said that when Lindbergh visited one of these few camps in Germany following WW2, he was told that 25,000 died in 1-1/2 years. Again, simple arithmetic tells us that 25,000 times a half dozen camps does not equal 6,000,000. In fact, it doesn't even equal 600,000. . . .

it is an interesting fact that the number of so-called persecuted Jews **KEEPS INCREASING**. Hal Greenwald, program director for the Hillel Foundation at Duke University, a Jewish student group, has been promoting the idea that **NINE MILLION JEWS WERE EXTERMINATED IN HITLER'S GAS CHAMBERS** (New York Times, Nov. 9, 1991, AP). **NOW IT'S 9 MILLION AND GROWING. ..JUST LIKE OUR DEBT/TAX MONEY SUPPLY...THE NUMBERS JUST KEEP COMING OUT OF THIN AIR. . .(The Bible Caused Economic and Financial Slavery in the New World Order by Lee Cheney).**

<http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holofoax.htm>

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #3

### Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism & Hitler's Rise to Power

Anti-Semitism in Europe did not begin with Adolf Hitler. Though use of the term itself dates only to the 1870s, there is evidence of hostility toward Jews long before the Holocaust—even as far back as the ancient world, when Roman authorities destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem and forced Jews to leave Palestine. The Enlightenment, during the 17th and 18th centuries, emphasized religious toleration, and in the 19th century Napoleon and other European rulers enacted legislation that ended long-standing restrictions on Jews. Anti-Semitic feeling endured, however, in many cases taking on a racial character rather than a religious one.

The roots of Hitler's particularly virulent brand of anti-Semitism are unclear. Born in Austria in 1889, he served in the German army during World War I. Like many anti-Semites in Germany, he blamed the Jews for the country's defeat in 1918. Soon after the war ended, Hitler joined the National German Workers' Party, which became the National Socialist German Workers' Party (NSDAP), known to English speakers as the Nazis. While imprisoned for treason for his role in the Beer Hall Putsch of 1923, Hitler wrote the memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" (My Struggle), in which he predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany." Hitler was obsessed with the idea of the superiority of the "pure" German race, which he called "Aryan," and with the need for "Lebensraum," or living space, for that race to expand. In the decade after he was released from prison, Hitler took advantage of the weakness of his rivals to enhance his party's status and rise from obscurity to power. On January 20, 1933, he was named chancellor of Germany. After President Paul von Hindenburg's death in 1934, Hitler anointed himself as "Führer," becoming Germany's supreme ruler.

#### Nazi Revolution in Germany, 1933-1939

The twin goals of racial purity and spatial expansion were the core of Hitler's worldview, and from 1933 onward they would combine to form the driving force behind his foreign and domestic policy. At first, the Nazis reserved their harshest persecution for political opponents such as Communists or Social Democrats. The first official concentration camp opened at Dachau (near Munich) in March 1933, and many of the



first prisoners sent there were Communists. Like the network of concentration camps that followed, becoming the killing grounds of the Holocaust, Dachau was under the control of Heinrich Himmler, head of the elite Nazi guard, the Schutzstaffel (SS), and later chief of the German police. By July 1933, German concentration camps (Konzentrationslager in German, or KZ) held some 27,000 people in "protective custody." Huge Nazi rallies and symbolic acts such as the public burning of books by Jews, Communists, liberals and foreigners helped drive home the desired message of party strength.

In 1933, Jews in Germany numbered around 525,000, or only 1 percent of the total German population. During the next six years, Nazis undertook an "Aryanization" of Germany, dismissing non-Aryans from civil service, liquidating Jewish-owned businesses and stripping Jewish lawyers and doctors of their clients. Under the Nuremberg Laws of 1935, anyone with three or four Jewish grandparents was considered a Jew, while those with two Jewish grandparents were designated Mischlinge (half-breeds). Under the Nuremberg Laws, Jews became routine targets for stigmatization and persecution. This culminated in Kristallnacht, or the "night of broken glass" in November 1938, when German synagogues were burned and windows in Jewish shops were smashed; some 100 Jews were killed and thousands more arrested. From 1933 to 1939, hundreds of thousands of Jews who were able to leave Germany did, while those who remained lived in a constant state of uncertainty and fear.

### **Beginning of War , 1939-1940**

In September 1939, the German army occupied the western half of Poland. German police soon forced tens of thousands of Polish Jews from their homes and into ghettos, giving their confiscated properties to ethnic Germans (non-Jews outside Germany who identified as German), Germans from the Reich or Polish gentiles. Surrounded by high walls and barbed wire, the Jewish ghettos in Poland functioned like captive city-states, governed by Jewish Councils. In addition to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger, overpopulation made the ghettos breeding grounds for disease such as typhus.

The article continues on the next page.



Meanwhile, beginning in the fall of 1939, Nazi officials selected around 70,000 Germans institutionalized for mental illness or disabilities to be gassed to death in the so-called Euthanasia Program. After prominent German religious leaders protested, Hitler put an end to the program in August 1941, though killings of the disabled continued in secrecy, and by 1945 some 275,000 people deemed handicapped from all over Europe had been killed. In hindsight, it seems clear that the Euthanasia Program functioned as a pilot for the Holocaust.

### **Towards the "Final Solution," 1940-1941**

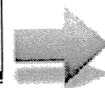
Throughout the spring and summer of 1940, the German army expanded Hitler's empire in Europe, conquering Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France. Beginning in 1941, Jews from all over the continent, as well as hundreds of thousands of European Gypsies, were transported to the Polish ghettos. The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 marked a new level of brutality in warfare. Mobile killing units called Einsatzgruppen would murder more than 500,000 Soviet Jews and others (usually by shooting) over the course of the German occupation.

A memorandum dated July 31, 1941, from Hitler's top commander Hermann Goering to Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SD (the security service of the SS), referred to the need for an Endlösung (Final Solution) to "the Jewish question." Beginning in September 1941, every person designated as a Jew in German-held territory was marked with a yellow star, making them open targets. Tens of thousands were soon being deported to the Polish ghettos and German-occupied cities in the USSR. Since June 1941, experiments with mass killing methods had been ongoing at the concentration camp of Auschwitz, near Krakow. That August, 500 officials gassed 500 Soviet POWs to death with the pesticide Zyklon-B. The SS soon placed a huge order for the gas with a German pest-control firm, an ominous indicator of the coming Holocaust.

### **Holocaust Death Camps, 1941-1945**

Beginning in late 1941, the Germans began mass transports from the ghettos in Poland to the concentration camps, starting with those people viewed as the least

Please continue to the next page.



useful: the sick, old and weak and the very young. The first mass gassings began at the camp of Belzec, near Lublin, on March 17, 1942. Five more mass killing centers were built at camps in occupied Poland, including Chelmno, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek and the largest of all, Auschwitz-Birkenau. From 1942 to 1945, Jews were deported to the camps from all over Europe, including German-controlled territory as well as those countries allied with Germany. The heaviest deportations took place during the summer and fall of 1942, when more than 300,000 people were deported from the Warsaw ghetto alone.

Though the Nazis tried to keep operation of camps secret, the scale of the killing made this virtually impossible. Eyewitnesses brought reports of Nazi atrocities in Poland to the Allied governments, who were harshly criticized after the war for their failure to respond, or to publicize news of the mass slaughter. This lack of action was likely mostly due to the Allied focus on winning the war at hand, but was also a result of the general incomprehension with which news of the Holocaust was met and the denial and disbelief that such atrocities could be occurring on such a scale. At Auschwitz alone, more than 2 million people were murdered in a process resembling a large-scale industrial operation. A large population of Jewish and non-Jewish inmates worked in the labor camp there; though only Jews were gassed, thousands of others died of starvation or disease. During the summer of 1944, even as the events of D-Day (June 6, 1944) and a Soviet offensive the same month spelled the beginning of the end for Germany in the war, a large proportion of Hungary's Jewish population was deported to Auschwitz, and as many as 12,000 Jews were killed every day.

### **Nazi Rule Comes to an End, as Holocaust Continues to Claim Lives, 1945**

By the spring of 1945, German leadership was dissolving amid internal dissent, with Goering and Himmler both seeking to distance themselves from Hitler and take power. In his last will and political testament, dictated in a German bunker that April 29, Hitler blamed the war on "International Jewry and its helpers" and urged the German leaders and people to follow "the strict observance of the racial laws and with merciless resistance against the universal poisoners of all peoples"--the Jews. The following day, he committed suicide. Germany's formal surrender in World War II came barely a week later, on May 8, 1945.

The article continues on the next page.



German forces had begun evacuating many of the death camps in the fall of 1944, sending inmates under guard to march further from the advancing enemy's front line. These so-called "death marches" continued all the way up to the German surrender, resulting in the deaths of some 250,000 to 375,000 people. In his classic book "Survival in Auschwitz," the Italian Jewish author Primo Levi described his own state of mind, as well as that of his fellow inmates in Auschwitz on the day before Soviet troops arrived at the camp in January 1945: "We lay in a world of death and phantoms. The last trace of civilization had vanished around and inside us. The work of bestial degradation, begun by the victorious Germans, had been carried to conclusion by the Germans in defeat."

### **Aftermath & Lasting Impact of the Holocaust**

The wounds of the Holocaust--known in Hebrew as Shoah, or catastrophe--were slow to heal. Survivors of the camps found it nearly impossible to return home, as in many cases they had lost their families and been denounced by their non-Jewish neighbors. As a result, the late 1940s saw an unprecedented number of refugees, POWs and other displaced populations moving across Europe. In an effort to punish the villains of the Holocaust, the Allies held the Nuremberg Trials of 1945-46, which brought Nazi atrocities to horrifying light. Increasing pressure on the Allied powers to create a homeland for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust would lead to a mandate for the creation of Israel in 1948.

Over the decades that followed, ordinary Germans struggled with the Holocaust's bitter legacy, as survivors and the families of victims sought restitution of wealth and property confiscated during the Nazi years. Beginning in 1953, the German government made payments to individual Jews and to the Jewish people as a way of acknowledging the German people's responsibility for the crimes committed in their name.

<http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust>

**Use the next page to record additional information from your independent research of the websites and library materials that support your claim. Make sure to cite the sources where you find additional information.**

Please write research information from additional sources in the chart below.

**Additional Source:**

**Research States:**

**Additional Source:**

**Research States:**

**Additional Source:**

**Research States:**

**Additional Source**

**Research States:**

Please continue to the next page.



## Independent Questions for Days 1-3

Based upon your research, answer the questions below independently. Your answers to these questions will help you analyze your research. You may refer back to the articles with your notes and annotations at any time. Answer each question in the space provided. Remember that questions may have multiple parts.

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, what is the claim for your argumentative research essay? (Was the Holocaust an actual tragic historical event or a propaganda tool?)

Claim: The Holocaust was an Propaganda tool.

Source	Textual Evidence Quoted or Paraphrased	Justification for How Evidence Supports My Claim
Source #1	Page 2 On April 1, 1933, the Nazis instigated their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run business.	
Source #2:		
Source #3:		
Source #4:		
Source #5:		

Please continue to the next page.



In the chart below, state and justify the best textual evidence from each source

2. Based upon the sources, what are the best examples of textual evidence (facts, statistics, quotations, etc.) that support a possible COUNTERCLAIM? Justify how each piece of evidence supports a possible counterclaim.

Source	Possible Counter Claim	Textual Evidence, Quoted or Paraphrased, Supporting Possible Counter Claim	Justification How does this evidence support the counter claim?
Source #1:			
Source #2:			
Source #3:			
Source #4:			
Source #5:			

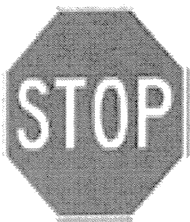


3. Was the Holocaust an actual historical event, or was it an example of political propaganda? If your claim is adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to prevent acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

I Myself think the Holocaust was an example of Political Propaganda because no one really was there. I also think that people today would not believe it either why? Because they were not there to physically see.

If your claim is not adopted, will people in our society today be more or less inclined to allow acts of genocide in our world? Explain your thinking.

I think that our society now will lessly incline to allow acts of Genocid in our world because the holocaust was something no one living here today experdeined. My self thinks its nothing but a story, but then why would people make up such a thing? thats why I'm telling people will not make acts of it anymore. Its propeganda tools.



You have completed Part 1 of the assessment.



## Part 2, Day 4 (40 minutes)

### Directions:

Today, you will be working in a small group of three to four students. As a group, engage in academic discussion of the questions below. You may refer to annotations and notes you made during your research and to your personal responses to the three questions you answered in Part 1 of the assessment.

As you participate in today's discussion, write down other people's ideas in your notes, as well as new ideas you form based upon the discussion.

### Academic Discussion Questions:

1. Based upon textual evidence contained in the sources you have read and analyzed, which claim has the strongest supporting evidence? Note: Reference the chart on page 14.

Discussion Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Based upon the sources, what textual evidence best supports the strongest **COUNTERCLAIM**. Note: Reference the chart on page 15.

Discussion Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Based upon your group discussion, did you change your personal claim? Why or why not based upon evidence discussed?

Discussion Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



You have completed Part 2 of the assessment.

## Part 3, Days 5, 6, and 7 (135 minutes)

**Directions:** Over the next three days, you will have 135 minutes to review your notes, plan, draft, and revise your essay. Remember, your essay must contain parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page. You may use the three research articles, your independent research, your annotations of the articles, your notes and responses to the independent questions from Part 1, and your discussion notes from Part 2. You must complete the argumentative essay on your own. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored. Then, begin your work.

### Your Writing Assignment:

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual historical event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. Based upon your research on this issue, write an argumentative essay, utilizing cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe the Holocaust was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim. You are also required to use parenthetical(internal) citations and to provide a Works Cited page.

How your argumentative essay will be scored: The person scoring your essay will be assigning scores for the following:

1. **Ideas** – how well you state your claim and support your claim with credible evidence from the articles
2. **Organization** – how well your ideas flow from the opening to the conclusion and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Word Choice** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose
4. **Sentence Fluency** – how well your sentences have flow, rhythm, cadence, and are built with strong, varied structures
5. **Conventions** – how well you use standard writing conventions to effectively enhance the readability of your essay

Now, begin work on your essay. Manage your time carefully so that you have time to:

- plan your essay
- write your essay
- revise and edit before writing your final copy of the essay



# The Holocaust

What I will be talking about is the Holocaust. Some people think it's a Hoax but to me it's real. Why? Because if Hitler is real then the Holocaust is real. It must of been a true nightmare finding bodies in the road, like nothing has happened. I claim that the Holocaust is real and I will show you the truth what happened.

The Holocaust began in 1933, when Hitler started to look in the dark side. And the Nazis were the army of Hitler, don't know why, but to me they looked like they were forced to be a Nazis. The word "Holocaust" is even in the dictionary, it happened during World War II.

1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust. Think it's a Hoax still? 11 million people were killed during this tragic event. It is very sad because they had lives to live and they got thrown away. The Germans didn't like the Jews, they made it a nightmare for the Jews. I think the Germans should be put in the places of the Jews, see how they like it, espieccally Hitler.

The Holocaust is real, because Hitler made them go to ghettos. The Jews got thrown out of their houses, and they had to live in small apartments with other families. It was terrible for the Jews, they had to wear stars on their clothes, so Germans could beat them up and knowing they're Jews.

The Jews lived in nightmares until other countries saw what they did so they fought and they won. The Holocaust is real, they murdered a lot of Jews, millions of them. My statement is that the Holocaust is real, all my information proves it.

## Works Cited

"Before the Holocaust: Historical Anti-Semitism and Hitler's Rise to Power"

< <http://www.history.com/topics/the-holocaust> >

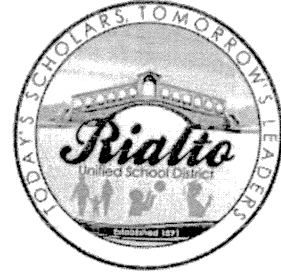
"Is the Holocaust a Hoax?"

< <http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/holo-hoax.htm> >

"The Holocaust"

< <http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust/a/holocaustfacts.htm> >





**Student Directions:**

**Part 1, Days 1, 2, and 3 (135 minutes)**

**Your assignment:**

When tragic events occur in history, there is often debate about their actual existence. For example, some people claim the Holocaust is not an actual event, but instead is a propaganda tool that was used for political and monetary gain. You will read and discuss multiple, credible articles on this issue, and write an argumentative essay, based upon cited textual evidence, in which you explain whether or not you believe this was an actual event in history, or merely a political scheme created to influence public emotion and gain wealth. Remember to address counterclaims (rebuttals) to your stated claim.

**Steps you will be following:**

In order to plan and compose your argumentative essay based on research, you will do all of the following:

- 1) Read and analyze information from multiple, credible sources.
- 2) Independently answer three questions based on these sources.
- 3) Engage in academic discussion, take notes, and respond to three questions.
- 4) Based on your research, plan and write your argumentative essay including the use of parenthetical(internal) citations and a Works Cited page.

**Directions for beginning:**

You will now read and annotate the three articles provided. If your teacher allows you to, you may also conduct independent research from the websites

<http://history1900s.about.com/od/holocaust> and

<http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Holocaust/websites.html> or from materials at the library.

Please continue to the next page.



## Source #1

# "The Holocaust"

## What Does Holocaust Mean?

- The Holocaust began in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany and ended in 1945 when the Nazis were defeated by the Allied powers.
- The term "Holocaust," originally from the Greek word "Holokauston" which means "sacrifice by fire," refers to the Nazi's persecution and planned slaughter of the Jewish people. The Hebrew word "Shoah," which means "devastation, ruin, or waste," is also used for this genocide.
- In addition to Jews, the Nazis targeted Gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the disabled for persecution. Anyone who resisted the Nazis was sent to forced labor or murdered.
- The term "Nazi" is an acronym for "National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei" ("National Socialist German Worker's Party").
- The Nazis used the term "The Final Solution" to refer to their plan to murder the Jewish people.

## The Big Numbers

- It is estimated that 11 million people were killed during the Holocaust. Six million of these were Jews.
- The Nazis killed approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe.
- An estimated 1.1 million children were murdered during the Holocaust.

## Persecution Begins

- On April 1, 1933, the Nazis instigated their first action against German Jews by announcing a boycott of all Jewish-run businesses.
- The Nuremberg Laws, issued on September 15, 1935, began to exclude Jews from public life. The Nuremberg Laws included a law that stripped German Jews of their citizenship and a law that prohibited marriages and extramarital sex between Jews and Germans. The Nuremberg Laws set the legal precedent for further anti-Jewish legislation.
- Nazis then issued additional anti-Jews laws over the next several years. For example, some of these laws excluded Jews from places like parks, fired them from civil service jobs (i.e. government jobs), made Jews register their property, and prevented Jewish doctors from working on anyone other than Jewish patients.

The article continues on the next page.

