



Resistance Group: White Rose

"Since the conquest of Poland, 300,000 Jews have been murdered in this country in the most bestial way ... The German people slumber on in dull, stupid sleep and encourage the fascist criminals. Each wants to be exonerated of guilt, each one continues on his way with the most placid, calm conscience. But he cannot be exonerated; he is guilty, guilty, guilty!"

- White Rose Pamphlet 2

White Rose was a Nazi resistance group based in Munich, Germany from 1942-1943. They practiced non-violent protest through graffiti and leaflets. Based out of the University of Munich, White Rose was made up of five students, Willi Graf, Christoph Probst, Alexander Schmorell, Hans Scholl, and Sophie Scholl and one professor, Kurt Huber. White Rose published resistance pamphlets during their brief existence. Originally, their pamphlets were distributed to people they knew, but by the end, their pamphlets were being distributed to thousands of people across Germany and Austria. These pamphlets not only called out the evils of the Nazi regime, such as their persecution of Jewish citizens, but also served as calls to action, suggesting ways that people could commit acts of sabotage. White Rose was growing and preparing to collaborate with other resistance groups when Sophie Scholl was seen distributing pamphlets by a member of the Nazi Party. Sophie, Hans, and Christoph were put on mock trial and claimed all of the blame. However, the other three members of the group were found out. All were sentenced to death for treason and executed.

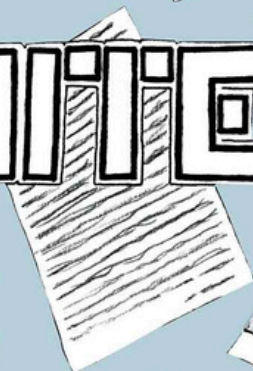
Prompt

As you consider your entry for the Henry Pestka Art and Poetry Contest, first remember that the Holocaust was a real experience; millions of people, both Jewish and non-Jewish, died due to government policy. We honor the survivors, and do not want to trivialize their experiences, even unintentionally. As you think about your poem or art piece, remember that your piece should be respectful of those real experiences.

Learn about a person or group who resisted the Nazis or other systems of oppression. Create a poster that celebrates their acts of resistance and memorialize their story. For more examples and inspiration, check out the GVSU Art Museum's collection of [Celebrate People's History](#) posters.

Celebrate People's History

WHITE ROSE.



AFTER HITLER TOOK POWER IN 1933, SEVERAL RESISTANCE GROUPS FOUGHT AGAINST THE REGIME. THE WHITE ROSE WAS FOUNDED IN 1942 AND BASED IN MUNICH. ITS MEMBERS WERE STUDENTS HANS AND SOPHIE SCHOLL, CHRISTOPH PROBST, WILLI GRAF, ALEXANDER SCHMIDRELL AND PROFESSOR KURT HUBER. AGAINST GREAT ODDS AND HEAVY REPRESSION, THEY PRINTED SIX DIFFERENT LEAFLETS AGAINST THE NAZIS, AND AT ONE POINT THEY PAINTED SLOGANS LIKE "DOWN WITH HITLER" AND "FREEDOM" IN THE STREETS. WHILE DISTRIBUTING LEAFLETS IN 1943 THEY WERE CAUGHT AND LATER EXECUTED. THEIR RESISTANCE MADE THEM LEGENDARY AND GAVE GREAT COURAGE TO ALL WHO OPPOSED THE NAZIS.

"SUPPORT THE
RESISTANCE
MOVEMENT-
SPREAD LEAFLETS!"
THE WHITE ROSE



Keinom, *Celebrate People's History: White Rose*, 2 color off-set printed poster, 2006, GVSU Collection, [2020.23.16](#)

Bibliography

"Grand Valley State University Art Gallery." Gvsu.edu, 2020, artgallery.gvsu.edu/Detail/objects/23708.

"Research – WHITE ROSE PROJECT." Ox.ac.uk, 2022, whiteroseproject.seh.ox.ac.uk/index.php/research/.

Spitzer, Tanja. "Sophie Scholl and the White Rose." The National WWII Museum | New Orleans, The National WWII Museum, 22 Feb. 2020, www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/sophie-scholl-and-white-rose.

Wikipedia Contributors. "White Rose." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 27 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Rose.



**GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**

ART MUSEUM