

Process Paper:

I chose the White Rose resistance movement as my topic because I wanted to do a topic in the time period of WWII and was interested when I saw White Rose in the list of sample topics. Although the White Rose group did not have any direct results of ending the Nazi regime, it is significant because of their message as nonviolent, intellectual, resisters of the Nazi government.

I saw some of the resources at the bottom of the Wikipedia page I used and google searched some key words. For primary sources, I have read the six leaflets of the White Rose and read the transcript of a lecture given by a White Rose survivor. I did more research on how Nazi Germany was run in terms of propaganda and targeting youth in order to make an argument on how the White Rose broke the barriers that it created. I also found a journal article on JSTOR. For my interview, I reached out to Elizabeth Bernhardt, a college professor at Stanford who teaches a course called Resistance Writings in Nazi Germany.

For my category, I chose a website because it is one of the categories I'm more comfortable with and I'm interested in creating the website format.

The White Rose group relates to the theme of breaking barriers because the group actively opposed Nazi rule, which had very harsh consequences. By choosing to speak out, the White Rose members were breaking barriers. While German youth had been taught to be completely obedient to their country and leader by Nazi propaganda targeted towards them, the White Rose was a student group that was critical and horrified by the Nazis' actions. The bold accusations in their leaflets broke many rules in Nazi Germany. The barriers that the Nazi rule created for its citizens included many limits on their freedoms. The White Rose spreading their message and calling upon other people to oppose the regime are directly breaking these barriers. The group acted against the harsh censorship and propaganda of Nazi Germany, and challenged these boundaries. The Nazi Party, which closely monitored various productions, was angered by this public criticism. Their resistance began when it did because prior, they had kept their thoughts against the Nazi regime private. Around the time it began, Germany was doing well in the war, but mass murders of Jews had recently begun. Seeing this was part of the reason why they decided to take action. The group began by distributing leaflets within their university and mailing them directly to people, and eventually some pamphlets being smuggled out of the country. Their story is significant because although they were not able to stir a revolution like they had hoped and instead created fear from their executions, the White Rose had created resistance against the Nazi regime and became a symbol of fighting for freedom that is still well known today. Their story demonstrates that even in such an oppressive society, people sacrificed their lives to speak out.