

Broken Diplomacy: How The White Rose Led Their Debate Till Death

Mercedes Cross

Senior Division
Individual Website

Process Paper

Website Word Count: 1,186

Process Paper Word Count: 399

Media Time: 2:49.75

Mercedes Cross

National History Day

12-18 June 2022

Process Paper

This year, I decided to research The White Rose because the moment I read their story, it immediately resonated with me. I had never heard of them before, and it was something I knew I wanted to dedicate more time and studying to. These students were so similar in age to me now, and I was blown away by what they were able to accomplish as students. A majority of my research was conducted online, through websites, archives, and videos, and I found most of my research before I started constructing my site. I knew from experience that with a greater wealth of knowledge, the building process would be much quicker. So once I built up a good understanding of my topic, I started by building my main, larger sections. Through my research, I found Spartacus Educational to be one of the most useful sources, as it had so much information on each member individually.

My decision to build a website this year was influenced by my experience and enjoyment building websites. I've created many websites in my high school career, and I have experience with the CSS and HTML languages. I created the background of each page using PDFs of each of the 6 White Rose leaflets to design an infinite collage. My color scheme consists of black, white, and various grays in reference to The **White** Rose, but also to maintain the somber tone of remembrance to honor these students.

The White Rose committed their lives to ending Hitler's cruel plans and actions. They initiated a resistance against Hitler when others were afraid, and debated non-violently and

anonymously to combat Hitler's beliefs. They wrote 6 letters that they shared throughout Germany to convince society that change needed to be made, but their lives were jeopardized when they were caught distributing them. Their hopeful debate was crushed by the broken diplomacy in Nazi-Germany, as their trial almost immediately resulted in their beheading, with no intervention from German society or other world powers. They demonstrated there could still be good people in a time of violence and fear, and were willing to give their lives for the betterment of their country. Their bravery and power have left an indelible mark on history; they sparked change in the German population. Without the White Rose students, it's impossible to determine how the German belief and government would have evolved.