

Honorable Mention
Nonfiction Writing, Division I
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A Voice That Should Be Heard
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He thought he was right. He stood up for his beliefs. On October 28, 1938 he marched into the German embassy for justice for what was done to him and his family. He was not a bad person. He didn't have a criminal record. He was very sad about what had happened to his family. Herschel Grynszpan shot Third Secretary Ernst vom Rath at the German embassy on this day. Ernest vom Rath died just two days later. When Herschel Grynszpan was arrested, he said "Being a Jew is not a crime. I'm not a dog. I have the right to live and the Jewish people have the right to exist." This is not the only story from the Holocaust about Jewish hate. The Holocaust represents a time where a group of people were persecuted because of their religion. The Nazis dominated the Jews taking away their families and ultimately their freedoms as the Nazis' hatred for the Jews turned to violence. On November 9, 1938, "at least 267 synagogues were destroyed. At least 91 people were murdered. Countless Jewish businesses and homes were vandalized and destroyed, and 30,000 Jews were sent to Dachau, Buchenwald, Sachsenhausen, and other concentration camps." This event was known as the Kristallnacht or The Night of the Broken Glass. This was one of the most tragic times in our history. The Holocaust was rooted in hatred and many people lost their lives because of it. Some people didn't have a voice and never stood up for themselves while others fought back like Herschel Grynszpan. But what is the fight that we should be fighting for? To end hatred? To stop violence? It starts with our voices to stand up for what's right, to treat others equally, with respect and understand this time in history because it can help us make better decisions in the future. We should be fighting the fight against injustice and turn away from revenge to make this world a better place.

Work Cited

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