Tribute to the Rescuers Essay Contest

**Essay Topic**
- Moral courage is the ability to take a strong stance on a specific issue and to defend it based on one’s personal beliefs or convictions regardless of danger or threats to personal safety – physical, emotional, or otherwise.
- Essays must incorporate three concepts:
  - Identify and explain an act of moral courage
  - Connect the example to the Holocaust (if not already related)
  - Explain how the lessons within the chosen example might be applied to essayist’s own life in the future
- Objectives:
  - Analyze moral behavior and become better educated about contemporary moral issues
  - Understand prejudice and discrimination and the harm they inflict on society
  - Better understand the Holocaust
  - Learn how to work proactively to ensure that history will not be repeated
  - Develop useful research skills

**Contest Rules**
- 750-1000 words
- MLA in-text citations and works cited page (include url for all website citations)
- Title required
- Times New Roman, 12-point font
- 2-5 REPUTABLE sources required (no Wikipedia, etc.)
- Name and school NOT on essay

**Submission Rules**
- Registration Form (we will complete this in class)
- Reflection Sheet (we will complete this in class)
- Essay (copy 1)
- Essay (copy 2)
- Staple 1-3, paperclip all 4 (I will collect all of this from you the day your paper is due)
- Keep a copy of the essay on your computer

**Disqualifiers**
- Incomplete registration form
- Incorrect word count
- Incorrect bibliography
- Missing reflection sheet
- Multiple entries per student
- Plagiarism
- Missing signature
Judging Criteria

- Judges are volunteers from the Omaha community. All essays are read and scored at least twice. Judges look for quality writing in the following areas:
  - Ideas
  - Voice
    - Your essay is not a report. It should be clear that you care about your topic. Your emotion should be evident, and your essay should be unique to you. The tone should show that you are engaged in the topic personally.
  - Organization
  - Conventions
  - Relation to the Holocaust
    - The essay should show personal knowledge of the Holocaust. It should focus on person or action and connect to human choices or decisions. What was done/not done? What is the impact then/now?
  - Personal Connection
    - Moral courage is often confused with bravery or heroism. You should demonstrate a personal connection by sharing an experience of a time when no one stood up for what is right or when moral courage was lacking. Do not write about “befriending a lonely person in the cafeteria.” Instead, consider how the story you’ve related impacted how you will act in the future. Explain what you learned, and explain why that learning is valuable to you.