# Genocide Honors Assessment

Name:

Date:

## Step 1

Your task is to research one of **the cases listed on the assessment page** where people decided to fight back, resist, or report. Summarize the event in **one complete paragraph** and describe how they were upstanders.

A prime example of resistance during the Holocaust was the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of 1943. Jewish inhabitants of Warsaw's Ghetto during Nazi-occupied Poland staged an armed rebellion against the Nazis as it became evident that they were being shipped to death camps. Though poorly armed and vastly outnumbered, forces of both the Jewish Fighting Organization (ŻOB) and others battled courageously for almost a month. All these individuals were upstanders because they refused to yield to systematic extermination and put themselves at risk to fight for survival and dignity. They provided an enduring symbol of resistance and defiance to tyranny and genocide.

## Step 2

Then, write **one complete paragraph** on the proceedings at the Évian Conference in 1938. Broadly speaking, the major military powers of the world that saw the German leadership's intention to invade their neighbors and the beginning of genocidal policies. They had two very broad decisions, to either:

* Increase the number of refugees they let in to save lives, which risked German spies coming in and worsening unemployment in their countries, or keep the refugee quota the same.
* Send troops to stand up to Germany, risking making the same mistake as World War I, or continue to use diplomacy.

The Évian Conference of 1938 assembled 32 nations' delegates to address the burgeoning refugee crisis resulting from Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany and Austria. Though all nations acknowledged an urgent need to act, most nations, including Great Britain and the United States, refused to raise immigration quotas significantly. Several nations, including many represented at Évian, expressed concerns for economic reasons and national security concerns, including unemployment and an influx of German agents and spies entering with refugees. In the end, little was achieved at Évian, essentially leaving most Jewish refugees without refuge as Nazi policies pushed toward genocide.

Though the conference was largely unsuccessful, you will need to make a decision that was not made. In a one paragraph reflection, choose which decision you would have made as a participant of the Évian Conference. Explain why you made this decision.

If I were at the Évian Conference, I would have advocated for raising refugee quotas to permit additional Jewish refugees to leave persecution. The fears of spies and economic hardship were understandable, but the moral obligation to save lives must have trumped such concerns. Refusal to accept people who were destined for death only allowed for the continuation of this holocaust uninterrupted. Accepting refugees not only could have saved lives, but it could have showed a firm, united stance against Nazi ideology. Had humanity been chosen over fear, untold suffering could have been avoided, and evil could have been challenged before it was too late.