Holocaust Homework

Go to the following website:

https://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/personal-history/

Read at least 3 eyewitness accounts of the Holocaust. Write a brief description of each account. What strikes you most about these eyewitness testimonials? If you could speak with these people, what questions would you ask them?

Choose **two** of the topics below. Write a paragraph responding to each.

1. Many survivors of the Holocaust speak of harassment by teachers, non-Jewish classmates, and neighbors. They were aware of the anti-Semitism, but when personally attacked at a young age, found this discrimination difficult to bear. Describe in your journal a situation in which someone you know has been singled out or embarrassed. How do you think that person felt? Have you ever found yourself in this position? Was there anything that could have been done to ameliorate the situation?

2. After the Nuremberg Laws were enacted in 1935, the Jews lost their civil liberties and rights as German citizens. Identify the civil rights you hold dear.

3. *Kristallnacht* marked the end for Jewish future life in Germany. Even though the "handwriting was on the wall," German Jews found it hard to leave their homes even when emigration was somewhat possible. List some reasons why it is difficult to leave one's home and one's country.

4. American philosopher William James (1842-1910) said, "When you have a choice to make and you don't make it, that in itself is a choice." Many of the survivors tell us about being turned away by neighbors and friends. Have you ever needed the aid of someone whom you expected to help you, and that person failed to do so? Have there been times in your life when somebody needed your help, and you were unable to respond? Write about these situations.

5. Many survivors of the Holocaust tell of heartbreaking separations from loved ones at the time of deportation and arrival in the camps. Discuss why you think the Nazis used the plan of separating families.

6. Many survivors of the Holocaust speak of so many hardships in the deportation, arrival, and camp experiences. The physical and mental torments were many. Write about why the lack of privacy was mentioned as part of their sufferings. Is this a hardship?

7. Illustrate what you imagine and know from these testimonies about the obstacles to resistance in the camps.

8. Many survivors of the Holocaust speak of the uncertainty of living through a day in the camps. Discuss how the lack of control affected the daily lives of the survivors.