



WHITE ROSE STUDENT RESEARCH CONTEST

OPEN TO 7TH - 12TH GRADE STUDENTS IN
WESTCHESTER, PUTNAM, ROCKLAND, AND FAIRFIELD COUNTIES

2020-2021 THEME:
PROPAGANDA

Propaganda is the utilization of a message to sway opinion – be that in the form of advertising a product or selling a political message. In 21st century America, the word *propaganda* carries a connotation that makes us uneasy. We equate it with manipulation for negative purposes. Much of this perspective is born out of the propaganda from World War I and World War II.

During the Nazi period, propaganda was used for a variety of purposes ranging from electioneering to preparing the highly integrated German society to view their own neighbors as inferior beings worthy of exclusion and, eventually, annihilation. Much of Nazi propaganda focused on amplifying and creating differences among those under Nazi control. Some propaganda promoted “Aryan” ideals and sought to win supporters by making people feel included in the racial community of Nazi Germany. Other examples aimed to highlight the perceived dangers posed by those the Nazis wished to exclude from society.

- **RESEARCH:** Analyze two examples of Nazi propaganda – one aimed at inclusion and the other aimed at exclusion. Describe the goals and methods of Nazi propaganda as seen in your examples. Be sure to discuss when they were produced and for what purpose. Who is being targeted for inclusion/exclusion?
- **REFLECTION:** American philosopher Eric Hoffer wrote, “Propaganda does not deceive people; it merely helps them to deceive themselves.” What is Hoffer trying to express about human nature? Do you agree? Why or why not?

Submission via Google Docs Deadline: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

For complete details, including required sources for student research, criteria, entry forms and recommended teaching approaches visit:

<https://hhrecny.z2systems.com/np/clients/hhrecny/event.jsp?event=1336>