

The Nuremberg Trials:
Establishing Human Rights and Bioethics

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Individual Website

Junior Division

Process Paper

My visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum while visiting Washington D.C. last year was one of the most memorable times of my life. The museum was an amazing place with so much information; I couldn't go through it in one visit. I believe it was there that it became clear to me, the importance in learning more about the Holocaust. It wasn't because I loved history, or because I was Jewish, it was so this couldn't happen again. I knew before the theme for History Day was announced that I wanted to find one relating to the Holocaust. While researching topics that would fit for rights and responsibilities, I immediately thought about the medical experiments done during the Holocaust and I chose the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial as my topic.

I was excited to start my research on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website and on-line archives after having been there in person. There were many online exhibits on the trial, medical experimentation, archive documents, photos, film clips, speeches, film footage, interviews with survivors, etc. I found the speaker series of current bioethicists to be very interesting and helpful. To find out more about bioethics I read, *American Bioethics* by George J. Annas, a leading bioethicist. I also read *Doctors from Hell* by Vivien Spitz, who recounts her story of when she was a court reporter during the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial. The most exciting part of my research was going to USC to interview Dr. Michael Melnick, an expert in medical bioethics. He was so knowledgeable and welcoming.

I selected an individual website for the ability to incorporate the most information and its interactive ability. I believe as much as words can give you information, add pictures, documents, maps, film footage, quotes and you get a more complete story. Although my topic

has some “dark” moments in its content, I chose to design the website with a lighter background color so I could draw attention to the content. I tried to make it simple to navigate and incorporated a variety of documents such as Nazi propaganda posters; photographs; trial documents; film footage; links to public law documents and current news articles. It was my first time navigating and downloading film footage from the National Archives but they made it very user friendly.

My topic represents the History Day theme of “rights and responsibilities” with the historic explanation of how the Nazi doctors neglected their responsibilities during World War II and would perform horrible experiments on prisoners in the concentration camps without their consent or concern for their safety or lives, ignoring their rights. I went on to discuss the Nuremberg Doctors’ Trial and the results, the Nuremberg Codes, which are the rights of the patients in a medical experiment and the responsibilities the doctors have to inform and protect the patient which set the standard of patient care today.