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### My competition entry was about...

...the Mennonites, a protestant free church, in southwest Germany. I asked myself three questions and tried to answer them:

- How did the Mennonite's community develop?
- In what way are Mennonites different?
- How did my family discern and how did they handle their disparity?



\* 1998

Topic of history competition:

Being different.  
Outsiders in history.

Year of participation:

2014/2015

Title of your competition entry:

» Mennonites:  
Different. Believing.  
Brave.«



### How did you decide on your topic ?

The topic should have a relation to one's family history or local history. I chose this topic because all my ancestors on my father's side are Mennonites. So the topic is very personal and I could learn a lot about my own family history.



### How did you react when you came upon surprising points during your research?

I was surprised that I found so many different sources and opinions on the same topic. Consequently, it was challenging for me to detect the truth. Therefore, I talked a lot to family members and experts.



### Did the research affect you personally?

The whole process was emotional and enriching in many ways. Thanks to my research work, I gained a completely new view on my family and my ancestors. I am deeply impressed by their braveness and courage. Furthermore, I perceive otherness differently in general. Before the competition, it was natural for me that everybody can live its disparity. Now, I realized that it is not common and that we are privileged living in a society rich in diversity.

### I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet

» Explore history – gain new perspectives on life «

