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My competition entry was about...

...schools in Nazi Germany. I studied the way the Nazis perceived education, the importance they accorded to schooling and the way they changed it to fit their worldview once they were in power. Furthermore, I studied how the system of education affected its students and what students thought of the system once the Nazi regime fell.



* 1999

Topic of history competition:

Attitudes Towards the Other as Reflected in History

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» State education in Nazi Germany, 1933-1939 «



I based my research

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



How did you decide on your topic ?

Being a student, I'm naturally interested in education, its evolution and its political impact. In this sense, Nazi education is an extreme case of totalitarian education, and through this research I understood how education can be employed to serve a certain agenda. Consequently I could draw conclusions regarding our own democratic education.



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

Working with a partner made the research much easier and more dynamic. Each of us had different ideas, and if one of us had difficulties, the other one could help to overcome them and suggest a different approach. I got stuck several times, unable to prove the claims I was trying to make, and my partner helped me refine our arguments so that everything is based on evidence from the literature we had.



Did the research affect you personally?

This research reminded me of the significance of education when trying to spread an ideology. The Nazi ideology appealed to young people especially because of its emotional, romantic aspects, and thus, education became a crucial factor in the ideological diffusion. I realized education can make sure this bloodthirsty worldview never seizes power again, because children raised based on humanism and tolerance will accept these peaceful values.

» **When carnage began at school** «

