



SUPPORTING QUESTION: HOW DOES PREJUDICE AGAINST ONE GROUP AFFECT ALL PEOPLE?

Write a paragraph in response to one of the subsequent texts that does one of the following:

- **Gives an opinion** – tells what you think or feel about a part of the text and why
- **Poses a question** – inquires into something you don't understand or something the text made you consider
- **Makes a connection** – discusses how the text relates to your own life, another text, or something in the larger world
- **Discusses a significant line or section** – highlights a part of the text that is important and discusses what it means

INTERCONNECTION is the quality or condition of being joined or related

OPPRESSION is the state of being subject to unjust treatment

Your entry should indicate the type of response you are writing and be at least four sentences in length. Include your original thoughts and do not simply summarize the text. Include a quote or other piece of evidence from the text to support your ideas.

FIRST THEY CAME

BY PASTOR MARTIN NIEMÖLLER

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Martin Niemöller (1892-1984) was a Lutheran pastor in Germany. He is known for his opposition to the Nazis during the 1930s. He was a national conservative and initially a supporter of Adolf Hitler. However, he later helped to found the Confessing Church, a group opposed to Nazi influence on Protestant churches. As a result, Niemöller was imprisoned in Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps from 1938 to 1945. After the war, he expressed regret for not having done enough to help the victims of the Nazis. From the 1950s, he was a pacifist and anti-war activist.

Photos © J.D. Noske / Anefo From Wikimedia Commons

EXCERPT FROM *THERE IS NO HIERARCHY OF OPPRESSIONS*

BY AUDRE LORDE

I was born Black, and a woman. I am trying to become the strongest person I can become to live the life I have been given and to help effect change toward a livable future for this earth and for my children. As a Black, lesbian, feminist, socialist, poet, mother of two including one boy and a member of an interracial couple, I usually find myself part of some group in which the majority defines me as deviant, difficult, inferior or just plain “wrong.”

From my membership in all of these groups I have learned that oppression and the intolerance of difference come in all shapes and sexes and colors and sexualities; and that among those of us who share the goals of liberation and a workable future for our children, there can be no hierarchies of oppression. I have learned that sexism and heterosexism both arise from the same source as racism.

“Oh,” says a voice from the Black community, “but being Black is NORMAL!” Well, I and many Black people of my age can remember grimly the days when it didn't used to be!

I simply do not believe that one aspect of myself can possibly profit from the oppression of any other part of my identity. I know that my people cannot possibly profit from the oppression of any other group which seeks the right to peaceful existence. Rather, we diminish ourselves by denying to others what we have shed blood to obtain for our children. And those children need to learn that they do not have to become like each other in order to work together for a future they will all share.

Within the lesbian community I am Black, and within the Black community I am a lesbian. Any attack against Black people is a lesbian and gay issue, because I and thousands of other Black women are part of the lesbian community. Any attack against lesbians and gays is a Black issue, because thousands of lesbians and gay men are Black. There is no hierarchy of oppression.

I cannot afford the luxury of fighting one form of oppression only. I cannot afford to believe that freedom from intolerance is the right of only one particular group. And I cannot afford to choose between the fronts upon which I must battle these forces of discrimination, wherever they appear to destroy me. And when they appear to destroy me, it will not be long before they appear to destroy you.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Audre Lorde (1934-1992) was an American writer, feminist, and civil rights activist. She was born in New York City to West Indian immigrant parents and has described herself as a “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Her work explores themes including women's rights, lesbianism, and black female identity. She used her art and devoted her life to confronting racism, sexism, classism, and homophobia.

Photos © From Wikimedia Commons

EXCERPTS FROM 3 LESSONS ABOUT ANTI-SEMITISM WE SHOULD LEARN FROM THE PITTSBURGH SYNAGOGUE ATTACK

BY DEBORAH LIPSTADT

IF THE MURDER OF 11 INNOCENT PEOPLE CAN TEACH US ANYTHING, WHAT LESSONS MIGHT WE LEARN?

- 1** Do not look for haters only on the other side of the political transom. Those on the political left who only see antisemitism on the right have blinded themselves to what is happening in their own midst. Those on the political right, who are only concerned about the “lefties” on the campus and beyond, are blind to what is happening next to them.
- 2** We may never change the minds of people who send pipe bombs or enter a sanctuary with guns blazing. But we can stop them from influencing others. This year, at Thanksgiving dinner, when your curmudgeon uncle or successful cousin (not all haters are old and ornery) begins to rant about Jews, Blacks, Muslims, and LGBTQs who are ruining this country, do not sit idly by. Challenge them. Do so, not to change their minds, but to reach others – especially young people – who are listening and watching and learning. Silence is an imprimatur for hate and prejudice.
- 3** Do not think that this attack is only about Jews. It may start with the Jews, but it never ends there. And conversely, it may start with others – Muslims, African Americans, LGBTQ identifying folks – but it will ultimately reach Jews. Lost in the legitimate media attention to the pipe bomber and the Pittsburgh murderer was the fact a few days earlier in Kentucky two African Americans were murdered outside a supermarket by an alleged white nationalist. He had tried to gain access to a predominantly African American church but found the doors locked. Instead, he went to the nearby supermarket to find some Blacks to kill. And he did.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah E. Lipstadt is Dorot Professor of Holocaust Studies at Emory University. She was a consultant to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and, in 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed her to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. She is the author of many publications, including *Denying the Holocaust* (1993), *History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier* (2005), *The Eichmann Trial* (2011), and *Antisemitism: Here and Now* (2019).

Photos © From Wikimedia Commons