

STUDENT RESPONSES
TO STUDENT AWARENESS DAYS - 2001

Because of the information I learned today, I will not judge people just because of their race or religion.@

Grade 10

AToday I learned that one person can help other people change their thoughts.@ I will pass on my knowledge to others.@

Grade 9

AIt=s one thing to read from a text book, but it is another to see and hear actual events from those who lived through this terrible time in our history@

Grade 11

AStudent Awareness Days taught me not to judge people or discriminate against them as a group or as an individual simply because they are different.@

Grade 11

“It is unbelievable to think that people would commit such horrors on one another. Having lived through it, I think that the survivors are extremely brave to come and tell us their stories.”

Grade 11

“This was the most intellectual experience in my life. It qualifies as a top-rated program which provided me with some incredibly meaningful information.”

Grade 12

“I feel as though I have grown as a person through taking part in this program.”

Grade 10

STUDENT AWARENESS DAY 2002
REFLECTIONS AND REACTIONS

“After today, I realize how lucky I am, how much I took for granted, and how fortunate I am to have all the opportunities that I do.”

“I expanded my knowledge through this program, but more importantly, I learned to appreciate life more and to live with more happiness for what I have.”

“I can see that what I learned today will help me to be kinder to others and not allow myself to hate.”

“Now I understand that ignorance is the only thing anyone should fear. I realize that just because everyone is from different backgrounds, we can still unite. We just might start a beautiful thing. I am taking home a profound, heart changing experience.”

“If we pass on the knowledge that prejudice will lead to hostility and war, maybe, just maybe, our children can grow up to see a peaceful world.”

“I think what I learned will make me think twice before I judge a person. Yes, today’s experience will help me.”

“Now I understand how one person, me, can make a difference.”

“I learned that I have the opportunity to make things better in this world.”

“This day taught me how to change my thinking toward people and treat them better.”

“It made me realize that when I am going through tough times, it is nothing in comparison to what the survivors had to endure.”

“I now know that prejudice and hatred have no place in our world.”

“The survivors’ courage really touched me deeply.”

“From now on, I will try to be more courageous to stand up for what is right.”

“It is amazing for me to hear the survivors talk about all they lived through in their lives and still be able to see the good in the world.”

“I have learned not to discriminate against others because we are all equal.”

“I was given a vivid description of what life was like in a concentration camp.”

“I will no longer tolerate prejudicial remarks others make.”

“I will try to educate those who don’t know or who just don’t care to know about what happened in the Holocaust.”

“The survivor and liberator’s speeches were emotional, and despite the fact that I was not in Europe, I got some kind of idea of what took place.”

“What moved me the most about today was when the survivor at my table showed me the numbers, which had been tattooed on his arm. It was a sign of the pain he had been through.”

“I learned that racism and hatred is the true root of evil.”

I now understand that it is important for our generation to make a difference and pass down the history that we learned today.

This is the most important day of our students’ school year. – a teacher

The survivor told us what happened to her. It wasn’t a movie or a book. It was reality.

The most interesting and helpful part of the program was knowing that I am right when I tell people that being prejudiced is wrong.

I will hand this information down to my children.

Thank you for this gift of education.

I learned that being a survivor is such a superhuman effort --something admirable and encouraging.

It is vital that victims of all sorts speak out against evil.

I found a deeper meaning in love for one another.

The images of childrens’ faces is a reminder of how important tolerance is.

I became totally aware of the entire truth today.

It’s unbelievable to me to think that people would really do this to another individual. I also think the survivors are brave to go through whatever pain they endure to retell their stories.

I think this qualifies as a top-rated educational experience.

What a great way to educate us about prejudice and violence and their dangers.

The survivors beared their souls and reopened painful wounds to teach us. I am most grateful to them for that.

I hope that every student in our country will have the opportunity to participate in a program of this nature. It is very important.

It was an honor to speak to and listen to a survivor. There is nothing like a firsthand experience like this one was.

This is the first step to making this world a better place.

Thank you for the life lesson.

I hope that this program can continue so that one day my children can be lucky enough to be a guest here and experience what I did.

We need to remember the Holocaust and tell the stories so people won't forget and let something like the Holocaust happen again.

This program made me more aware of what's going on around me.

Keep this program going for as long as you can because we students take this to heart and will remember this for the rest of our lives.

Just keep doing the work of God and know that if you take care of his work, he will take care of yours.

Listening to a survivor is a wonderful experience that everyone can learn from. – a teacher

This experience has shown me to open my eyes to horror and will allow me to open my mouth to change evil and hatred.

What I learned today will remain in my mind and my heart until the end.

I became aware of the importance of living today as if it is the last day – enjoying every possible moment.

I learned that in life there are many struggles but that one cannot give up the fight.

I learned that in order to come together as one, the people of this nation must neither love nor like one another but must learn to respect and communicate with each other.

I learned more in a day than I have in my whole life.

“I learned that the Holocaust wasn't something that simply happened 60 years ago. It's something that lives on with us. It is something that teaches us that we have to make a difference in the world.”

HOLOCAUST DOCUMENTATION AND EDUCATION CENTER, INC.

2002 – 2003 STUDENT AWARENESS DAYS
STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS AND REMARKS

"I admire the survivors who came today and who had the courage to talk about what happened to them as young persons." 9th grade – Miami Lakes Educational Center

"It became apparent to me that we need to treat everyone equally, regardless of one's religion, color, or culture." 10th grade ACE Academy

"I learned that you have to be careful and learn and educate yourself about things you don't understand, because misunderstanding leads to stereotyping, which leads to jokes, which leads to hate, which leads to horrific events like the Holocaust." 10th grade Our Lady of Lourdes Academy

"Today made me aware that the Holocaust was real and that real people survived super human things." 9th grade Miami Norland Senior High School

"I find that I am leaving this experience touched and filled with hope for our generation." 10th grade St. Brendan High School

"Without question, it is definitely not the same to read about the Holocaust and then sit with a survivor who comes with real history. What an honor to be here today!" 9th grade Southwest Senior High School

"The one-on-one conversation with my survivor at my table was interesting, enlightening, and touching." 10th grade Miami Norland High School

"This day gives me courage to face new challenges." 10th grade North Miami Beach Senior High School

"I learned that life is something to be cherished and diversity should be embraced." 11th grade Miami Palmetto Senior High School

"We have a duty and responsibility to promote equality and never to let this happen again." 10th grade Miami Carol City High School

"From this day forward, I will be less prejudice. I will also be more careful about making generalizations about people." 10th grade American High School

"This educational experience was the most powerful I have had throughout my 12 years in school. I feel like I have learned more than at any other time in my life." 12th grade Dade Christian School

“Today I learned patience, tolerance, and concern for others. I am glad to hear the same theories from the Holocaust survivors about respecting each others’ beliefs as I have had and continue to have.” 11th grade Hillel Community Day School

“I think that today’s presentation has filled up an empty space in my heart, where I learned about the Holocaust and met new people.” 11th grade Hollywood Hills High School

“I now understand the importance of respecting other people and teaching others to appreciate all aspects of life.” 11th grade Flanagan High School

“I learned how horrible the Holocaust was, but I also came to realize that we as people have the power to ensure that it doesn’t ever happen again.” 11th grade Monsignor Edward Pace High School

“I came to realize that there is always hope and that even though we are all different, we are also the same and must be united.” 10th grade North Miami Beach High School

“I learned the privilege of freedom and its importance in our lives.” 12th grade Western High School

“It is extremely important to keep telling this story so that something like this never will happen again.” 12th Plantation High School

“From today’s program, I learned that no matter how we look on the outside or what we believe in, we are one race. We must pull together so our race will survive.” 10th grade Miami Springs High School

“I learned that we can all reach out a helping hand to those who feel alone because the smallest thing can inspire them and make a difference.” 10th grade Dillard High School

“I can honestly say that this has been the best educational experience of my entire schooling. I am walking away with so much important information and life-changing ideas. 10th grade Coral Shore High School

“I will do my best to do the things that the survivors inspired us to do with our lives.” 11th grade Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School

“The survivors will not always be here. It is going to be our responsibility to carry on and teach others what we learned today.” 12th grade Miami Country Day School

“I want this program to grow so everybody can learn, because we can make this a better world if we do.” 9th grade Suncoast High School

“I learned to love others for who they are inside.” 12th grade Spanish River High School

“I understand much more about diversity, compassion, and hatred. I learned about the power of words and the power of the struggle to survive.” 11th grade Lake Worth High School

“I plan to take this information to heart and try to make a difference in this world.” 12th grade Stranahan High School

“I never expected to come here and learn so much about myself and my feelings. I am a different person as a result of this day.” 11th grade Western High School

“I will cherish this experience and will carry what I learned with me forever. I can’t get over how brave the survivor at my table was and how she was willing to talk to students so that we can learn.” 11th grade Ft. Lauderdale High School

“I learned that prejudice by even one person can lead to the death of thousands of innocent people.” 10th grade South Plantation High School

“What I realize is that without education, something like the Holocaust could happen again. People need to be informed.” 12th grade West School of Choice

“As human beings, we must be open-minded and learn to speak out to protect each others’ rights.” 11th grade William T. Dwyer High School

“I have learned more about what hatred can do if it is allowed to persist and build inside of a person. What starts out as a small seed can easily burst into flames if it survives. That is why any signs of hatred should be stopped.” 10th grade Ed Venture Charter School

“I learned something that will probably follow me for the rest of my life. I learned that a little ounce of hatred can affect someone’s life in so many ways.” 10th grade Island Christian School

“Today turned information into a reality and not just another history lesson.” 10th grade Pahokee Middle Senior High School

“It amazes me that survivors aren’t bitter and are, in fact, the bravest people. Despite what happened to them, they still work hard to make our world a better place.” 12th grade Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School

“I am so appreciative of having had the opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor. This is the most influential and important day of my life.” 10th grade Nova High School

REFLECTIONS AND REACTIONS FROM
STUDENT AWARENESS DAYS 2004

“I will take this experience into my every day life and actions and will treat people differently as a result of having been here today.” 11th grade Miami-Coral Park High School

“I expected mainly a presentation on the Holocaust, but I also got a lesson on prejudice and how I can prevent it.” 12th grade MAST Academy

“After this experience, I feel that we are leaving here with a new perspective of hope and realization.” 12th grade Miami Beach High School

“This experience has allowed me to come away with a wealth of information about the Holocaust which I plan to share with my family and someday with my children” 12th grade North Miami Beach High School.

“Words can’t express how this day has impacted on me and my life.” 10th grade McFatter High School

“The important thing I learned today was that it took a whole lot of courage to survive the Holocaust. One shouldn’t give up.” 12th grade Coconut Creek High School

“I never wanted to get involved in other people’s problems, but after today, I realize it is not just their problem – it is mine indirectly as well.” 10th grade Stoneman Douglas High School

“From what I’ve seen and heard today, I can truly say that my perspective on the world has definitely changed.” 10th grade Piper High School

“Today’s program helped me to understand the Holocaust on more personal terms. One can learn about history from a book, but a firsthand account puts history on a more personal level and allows the listener to comprehend with more depth. 10th grade Miami Country Day School

“I learned that even though these wonderful people experienced hardships, it did not leave them with any hatred in their hearts. That to me is remarkable.” 10th grade Belen Jesuit Preparatory School

“I’ve always appreciated diversity, but now I can respect the pain of the past that will lead to the promises of tomorrow.” 12th grade Blanche Ely High School

“I plan to tell all of my family and my friends about my experience here today – especially that I met a Holocaust survivor.” 11th grade Deerfield Beach High School

“Today has led me to see both the positives and negatives of the human character at its extremes. It has also changed my outlook on the human spirit.” 12th grade Blanche Ely High School

“I learned that changing your thinking can really change the world.” 10th grade McFatter High School

“I feel that the world needs more voices in order to have the strength to overcome hatred and racism.” 12th grade Coral Springs High School

“I know that what I learned is going to make a great difference. For example, if anyone ever tells me that the Holocaust did not happen, I will tell him that it did and that I met a survivor who was there.” 9th grade Lake Worth High School

“We need to have more of these programs more often. They can make a big impact on all of us students.” 12th grade Spanish River High School

“I learned that hatred can trigger an endless amount of racism and ignorance toward people that have different beliefs or values.” 10th grade Wellington High School

“A part of my life changed just a few hours ago when I met a survivor. I will try my best to use this information I gained here on a daily basis.” 11th grade Palm Beach Gardens High School

“I learned that human strength can overcome the deepest pits of hell. You have to love yourself and be strong.” 12th grade MAST Academy

“After hearing the survivor tell her story, I was surprised at what a healthy state of mind she has, how she is not angry, and how she still has her faith.” 12th grade Miami Coral Park High School

“I learned the importance of the Holocaust in learning from our past in order to prevent mistakes in the future.” 11th grade Everglades High School

“I now understand how I must stand up for myself and for others instead of running the other way.” 11th grade McArthur High School

“If we work together, we can eliminate the violence and create peace in our world.” 10th grade Ft. Lauderdale High School

“My eyes were opened up to what really happened today.” 10th grade University School

“Today I learned that one’s appearance is not what matters. Instead, it is who the person inside that counts for everything.” 10th grade Cypress Bay High School

“Through an informal manner, simply conversational, a lot of information was covered.”
11th grade Miramar High School

“The survivor at my table made me realize just how blessed today’s teenagers are.” 12th
grade Hallandale High School

“I learned that there are those with enough strength to keep true to their faith and live through such suffering but still maintain the will to live and share their painful experience.” 10th grade Our Lady of Lourdes

“I thought I knew a lot about the Holocaust, but to learn and hear from a survivor is totally different.” 12th grade Wellington Community High School

“What we learned in textbooks doesn’t compare to what we heard today.” 11th grade South Tech High School

“What I learned from today’s program is that we must keep going step by step, no matter what happened and no matter how difficult things are.” 11th grade Palm Beach Lakes Community High School

“I now know the about appreciating what I have in America and the importance of having love and kindness toward other people.” 11th grade Westminster Academy

“Although I can’t even imagine what the survivors went through, now I have a greater knowledge and understanding of the personal accounts.” 11th grade St. Thomas Aquinas High School

“The survivors have an amazing amount of courage.” BCC South Campus

“After today, I realize that I should change my attitude and be more involved in the world.” 10th grade ATC Magnet High School

“Thank you for this opportunity to come here. It was one of the most important days in my life.” BCC North Campus

“It is our job to educate the generations to come about what happened during the Holocaust.” 10th grade J.P. Taravella High School

“I learned that something as simple as an idea can eventually turn into years of misfortune and hatred.” 12th grade Blanche Ely High School

“I heard an amazing story of life, struggles, and triumph from the survivor.” 10th grade Plantation High School

“I learned that we need to stand up for what is right and that it only takes one person to make a difference.” 12th grade Coconut Creek High School

“I think it is incredible and truly touching that I actually got to talk to a survivor.” 9th grade Cooper City High School

“I learned that the human spirit is too strong to break – especially when you have hope.” 12th grade Miami Senior High School

“I changed my thinking in that I realize we need to understand each other, and I will use this to spread it on to others.” 12th grade Miami High School

“I have always known about the Holocaust but today helped me to connect the human experience with it.” 12th grade St. Brendan’s High School

“What I learned today will change my life by teaching me not to prejudge others.” 11th grade Miami Lakes Education Center

“I think that if all of us in the world get together, we could have peace in the world.” 11th grade Coral Park High School

“What I learned today will help guide me to make better decisions in life.” 11th grade Coral Shores High School

“Today for a little while, I was able to leave my life behind and put myself into the survivor’s life.” 11th grade Marathon High School

“I learned that each of us is the key to the future to end hate and discrimination.” 12th grade St. Brendan High School

“I now understand that neutrality only helps the oppressor. If we sit home and do nothing, nothing will change.” 9th grade Belen Jesuit High School

“Today’s program makes me appreciate the freedom American students enjoy!” 10th grade Champion Prep Academy

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**REFLECTIONS AND REACTIONS FROM
STUDENT AWARENESS DAYS 2004 – 2005**

“I am a black person and I don’t like white people. Today, I changed my mind.” 11th grade Toussaint L’Ouverture High School

“I have heard people make racist comments and I did not say anything. Now, I hope I would have the courage to realize it is wrong and stand up for the people who are being victimized.” 10th grade Our Lady of Lourdes Academy

“I just hope that all the youth sitting in this room with me here today will take what they have learned and use it to fight prejudice and hatred in the world” 10th grade Miami Country Day School

“Coming here today and meeting a Holocaust Survivor was one of the most amazing experiences of my life.” 11th grade South Broward High School

“Unfortunately, now I realize that I was the one who was prejudice. After today, I understand how I hurt that person. From now on, I will make every effort to stop prejudice around me.” 10th grade Lake Worth High School

“I have an opened mind now as a result of being here today. I can use this information I learned to teach others who never knew about the Holocaust.” 12th grade Miramar High School

“This program has helped change the way I look at people in general. Now, if I see anything that I believe is wrong, I will do what I have to in order to stop it.” 10th grade Lake Worth High School

“If anyone makes any kind of discriminatory remark or joke, I will let them know that what they said was wrong.” 9th grade Key West High School

“What I learned here has instilled me with a new sense of tolerance for different individuals.” 12th grade Hallandale High School

“I will take this experience into my every day life and actions and will treat people differently as a result of having been here today.” 11th grade Miami-Coral Park High School

“I see signs of prejudice in school every day. I never had the guts to speak out. Now I really will try.” 11th grade Wellington High School

“I expected mainly a presentation on the Holocaust, but I also got a lesson on prejudice and how I can prevent it.” 12th grade MAST Academy

“After this experience, I feel that we are leaving here with a new perspective of hope and realization.” 12th grade Miami Beach High School

*“What I learned here has changed me in the way that I appreciate life more. By stopping and speaking up when I hear ethnic jokes and remarks, I will make a difference.”
Freshman The Honors College at Miami Dade College.*

“This experience has allowed me to come away with a wealth of information about the Holocaust which I plan to share with my family and someday with my children” 12th grade North Miami Beach High School.

“Words can’t express how this day has impacted me and my life.” 10th grade McFatter High School

“The important thing I learned today was that it took a whole lot of courage to survive the Holocaust. One shouldn’t give up.” 12th grade Coconut Creek High School

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“I plan to tell all of my family and my friends about my experience here today – especially that I met a Holocaust Survivor.” 11th grade Deerfield Beach High School

“Today has led me to see both the positives and negatives of the human character at its extremes. It has also changed my outlook on the human spirit.” 12th grade Blanche Ely High School

I will do my best to help make this world a better place. I will tell everyone I meet about my experiences here today.” Freshman Miami Dade College

“I learned that changing your thinking can really change the world.” 10th grade McFatter High School

“I feel that the world needs more voices in order to have the strength to overcome hatred and racism.” 12th grade Coral Springs High School

“I know that what I learned is going to make a great difference. For example, if anyone ever tells me that the Holocaust did not happen, I will tell him that it did and that I met a Survivor who was there.” 9th grade Lake Worth High School

“We need to have more of these programs more often. They can make a big impact on all of us students.” 12th grade Spanish River High School

“This program helped me to understand that we must do what we can to help – to spread the word about the Sudan crisis – to get the information out there and make a difference.” Miami Dade College

“I have learned not to be a bystander and I also understand the meaning of how we are all equals.” 11th grade North Miami Beach High School

“I will pass this information down to my younger siblings and others who should know the truth about what happened.” 10th grade Plantation High School

“This program today truly helped me to appreciate my freedom which I took for granted up until now.” 11th grade Ft. Lauderdale High School

“I’ve always stood by in silence, but now I realize that silence is just as bad as picking on someone else.” 10th grade Everglades High School

“Because of this day, my knowledge of how racism can utterly destroy our civilization has expanded. I will now know how to combat it.” 9th grade Smart School Institute of Technology and Communication

“I am more determined than ever never to let an event like the Holocaust happen again.” 12th grade Piper High School

“The Survivor told us that those who lost hope didn’t survive. Hope was never a big value in my life, but now I know it will be. I will try to be hopeful with whatever I do.” 11th grade St. Thomas Aquinas

“I will speak out because the effects of prejudice are becoming more real in our world today.” 10th grade University School of Nova Southeastern

“The information we learned here today is the kind that can be used through life, work, school, and in general.” 12th grade Northeast High School

“I plan to let people know how prejudice and words can truly hurt people.” 11th grade Coral Glades High School

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“Today’s program makes me appreciate the freedom American students enjoy!” 10th grade Champion Prep Academy