**Holocaust Unit Essay Prompt**

**What is human nature?**  Write an essay arguing your point about human nature. (Remember that is question isn’t asking, “What is the ***author’s*** message about human nature?” This question is asking ***you*** to make a claim and support it with evidence from different authors.) Make sure your essay…

* is well organized with an introduction, at least three body paragraphs and conclusion.
* includes strong evidence—quotes from example—from at least two different sources. Those sources, though, do not necessarily need to be from our Holocaust unit. You are welcome to bring in evidence from other books or classes.
* includes a counter argument. The counter argument could be an entire paragraph or just part of a paragraph.

**To get started you might try thinking about the following:**

* Are people naturally cruel or compassionate? What motivates people to be cruel or compassionate? Are there certain circumstances under which people are more likely to be cruel or compassionate?
* What causes people to change?
* How far will people go to survive?
* Do people care more about themselves or others?
* When and why are some people willing to sacrifice themselves for others?
* What information do you already have in your journals and charts that might be helpful?
* What evidence might you be able to use to support your claim about human nature? What evidence could you use from any of the Holocaust texts? What evidence could you use from other units? What evidence could you use from other classes like social studies?
* What counter arguments might you need to make when you write your essay? How can you make these counter arguments?

You don’t need to answer all these questions; they’re just something to get you started if you’re stuck.