

Anne Frank was born June 12, 1929 in Frankfurt, Germany. Anne lived in Frankfurt with her parents, Edith and Otto, and older sister Margot until the Nazis came to power in 1933, when she was 4. From there, the family fled to Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands. In May 1940, German forces occupied the Netherlands and introduced **antisemitic** laws. Anne and Margot were forced to leave public school and transferred to a Jewish school. They could no longer go to movie theaters, parks, or pools. Jews were forced to forfeit their businesses, although Otto Frank was able to keep his business out of Nazi control with the help of Jan Gies and other employees. All Dutch Jews were required to live in the vicinity of Amsterdam. Non-Dutch Jews like the Frank family, if found, were sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor, **extermination camps** in German-occupied Poland.

The summer of 1942 saw increased **deportations**. Margot received a call-up to report to a labor camp for deportation. In response, Anne and her family went into hiding in July 1942. They were staying in a secret apartment with another Jewish family, the Pfeffer's. Anne called the hiding spot the "secret **annex**". Miep Gies, a friend and employee of Otto Frank, and wife of Jan Gies, with help from a few others, helped hide the Frank and Pfeffer families as well as bringing them food and supplies.

While in hiding, Anne wrote a diary about her experience as well as her daily thoughts and ideas. She was given the diary as a present for her 13th birthday, a month before going into hiding. After hearing a radio announcement calling for people to keep their documents about German occupation, she began to edit her diary so it could be published.

The "secret annex" was found August 4, 1944 by the Nazis. Scholars believe the family was betrayed, but it is unknown by whom. The Frank family took the last train from Westerbork, a Dutch **transit camp**, to **Auschwitz**. Otto was separated from his wife and daughters, but all were chosen for **forced labor**. Edith, Anne's mother, died in Auschwitz in January 1945. Margot and Anne were sent to **Bergen-Belsen**, where the sisters died of **typhus** a month or two before the **concentration camp** was **liberated** in May 1945. Anne was 15, and Margot was 19. Otto Frank was the only surviving member of the Frank family.

Anne was unable to edit all of her diary before her deportation. After liberation, Miep Gies gave Anne's writings to Otto Frank, who pushed to publish Anne's diary.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> To learn more about the Frank family, check out these sources:

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/anne-frank-biography>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/anne-frank-diary?series=197>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/series/anne-frank?parent=en%2F169>

## **Glossary:**<sup>2</sup>

**Annex:** An addition to a building.

**Antisemitism:** Prejudice and discrimination against Jews on the basis of their religious beliefs, their ethnicity, or the false idea that Jews are a race. Nazi antisemitism was racial in nature.

**Auschwitz:** A concentration camp established by the Nazis in 1940, in Oswiecim, Poland, with three camps for imprisonment and extermination and over 40 sub-camps for forced labor.

**Bergen-Belsen:** A Nazi concentration camp established in 1943 in northern Germany. Originally intended as a camp for prisoners the Nazis could exchange with the Allies, only a few Jews were actually released. It was a major site of overcrowding once the Nazis began to move prisoners west from Eastern Europe near the end of the war.

**Concentration camp:** Camps established by the Nazis for prisoners, both Jewish and non-Jewish, that became a major instrument of terror, control, punishment, and killing, by way of disease and hunger as well as outright murder.

**Deportation:** Removal of people from their areas of residency for purposes of resettlement elsewhere. For Jews, this meant removal to another city, ghetto, concentration camp, or extermination center.

**Extermination Camp:** A Nazi facility where victims were killed on a massive scale using gas chambers. Bodies were burned or buried in mass graves. There were six camps: Belzec, Chełmno, Majdanek, Sobibor, Treblinka, and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**Forced Labor:** A process whereby prisoners are forced to perform harsh labor under poor conditions in places like mines or factories. Jewish laborers were subject to particularly humiliating treatment for the financial gain of the Nazi war economy.

**Liberation:** The process of one army driving an occupying army out of an occupied territory. Holocaust survivors and citizens of occupied Europe used the word "liberation" to refer to the moment they were freed from Nazi control.

**Resistance:** Generally, action of an individual, nation or group in opposition to those in power. More specifically, efforts by Jews and others to oppose persecution at the hands of the Nazis and their partners.

**Transit Camp:** Temporary holding centers for prisoners on their way to "resettlement in the east." This would often be the last stop on the way to an extermination camp.

**Typhus:** An infectious disease that is typically spread by lice, ticks, or mites. Symptoms include a purple rash, headaches, delirium, and fever, and is known for having a high death rate. There was a typhus epidemic in Bergen-Belsen in spring of 1945, killing at least 35,000 prisoners, including Anne and Margot.

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<sup>2</sup> Definitions courtesy of [Echoes and Reflections](#) (a project of Yad Vashem, USC Shoah Foundation, & the Anti-Defamation League) and the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Holocaust Encyclopedia](#).

# Analyzing Anne Frank's Diary

In this section, you will analyze Anne Frank's writing. Consider the quote below from Anne's diary from her entry on March 29, 1944:

"Mr. Bolkestein, the Cabinet Minister, speaking on the Dutch broadcast from London, said that after the war a collection would be made of diaries and letters dealing with the war. Of course, everyone pounced on my diary. Just imagine how interesting it would be if I were to publish a novel about the Secret Annex. The title alone would make people think it was a detective story.

Seriously, though, ten years after the war people would find it very amusing to read how we lived, what we ate and what we talked about as Jews in hiding. Although I tell you a great deal about our lives, you still know very little about us. How frightened the women are during air raids; last Sunday, for instance, when 350 British planes dropped 550 tons of bombs on IJmuiden, so that the houses trembled like blades of grass in the wind. Or how many epidemics are raging here."<sup>3</sup>

As discussed in the biography and quote above, Anne decided to edit her diary so that it could one day be published. Think about the quote above and answer the following questions:

- What is Anne's tone? What is she feeling? How do you know she feels this way?
- Why would Anne want her diary published?
- How does this quote make you feel?
- Why are you drawn to Anne Frank's diary?

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<sup>3</sup> Frank, Anne. *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*, edited by Otto H. Frank and Mirjam Pressler. Translated by Susan Massotty, Bantam Books, 1997, pp. 241.

# Art as Resistance in Anne Frank's Diary

Think about the quote on the previous page:

- Compare what you know of Anne Frank's diary. How does this quote differ from the rest of her diary?
- Why do you think Anne chose to include some details in her diary but not others?
- Why might the Nazis not want Anne's diary to be published?



This Competition explores the theme of resistance in art and writing:

- What does resistance mean to you?
- How can writing be a form of resistance?
- How can personal writing serve as a record of past events?



# Submission Requirement: Statement of Purpose

As you construct your Competition submission, you will choose to respond to one or more sources of inspiration: Anne Frank, Elie Wiesel, and/or Erich Lichtblau-Leskly.

Consider your own thoughts on Anne Frank. How can your submission serve as a response to her work? Will you write, or will you make art?

To complete your submission, you will compose a **statement of purpose**. This statement will aid the Competition judges in understanding your reasons for creating your submission, as well as how it connects to the source(s) of inspiration.

*In your submission and statement of purpose, please respond to the following questions:*

- What does “art as resistance” mean to you? How do art and writing provide opportunities for cultural resistance?
- What messages of resistance and lessons of the Holocaust will you convey in your art and writing?
- How is your piece inspired by the works of Anne Frank, Elie Wiesel, and/or Erich Lichtblau-Leskly?

In the box below, outline your ideas for your statement of purpose. Your statement of purpose must be 250 words or less, and it must respond to all three of the above questions.