

2021 ADL Student Essay Contest Winners

7-9th Grade Division Winners

First Place: Braeleigh M.
Holy Family Catholic School, Grand Junction, CO
8th Grade
[*A Light in the Darkness*](#)

“Helmut Kleinicke made a morally courageous decision to risk his own life for the Jewish people. His story makes me ask myself: when some can risk their lives for others, why can’t I do something as simple as accept others, regardless of our differences? The answer is simple. I can.”

Second Place: Heather K.
Denver Jewish Day School, Denver, CO
8th Grade
[*Defining American Democracy*](#)

“While I may only be in middle school, I believe that it is never too early or too late to begin leaving your legacy, through small actions such as showing kindness, compassion, integrity, empathy, and loyalty to those around me.”

Third Place: Anastasia P.
Wellington Middle School, Wellington, CO
8th Grade
[*The Life, Death, and Legacy of Marielle Francisco da Silva*](#)

“She inspires me to help change how the world sees it’s people and fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. Marielle was able to take what was supposed to make her weak, turn that around and build herself up stronger.”

10-12th Grade Division Winners

First Place: Damaris V.
Northglenn High School, Northglenn, CO
10th Grade
[*Change in Society*](#)

“Garza has inspired me to stand up for people and to fight for them as well. I am Mexican and even though racism towards Latinos is not often talked about it occurs every day.”

Second Place: Gianna T.
Northglenn High School, Northglenn, CO
10th Grade
[*Offering a Hand to a Stranger*](#)

“I learned to take Nkom’s lesson in my life because she is teaching that a problem doesn’t have to be yours in order to fix it as well as to explore new things we may have been wary about because of the labels attached to them.”

Third Place: Kaylee C.
Northglenn High School, Northglenn, CO
10th Grade
[*Irena Sendler: A Hero in Disguise*](#)

“I feel like I have been given a lot of opportunities to change the world and Sendler has taught me that I need to not take those opportunities for granted and use them to the best of my ability.”