Paideia Discussion: *Night* and the Holocaust

Most of the time, once we decide where we stand on an issue, we refuse to communicate with others in a controlled, intellectual, and adult manner. A Paideia discussion is a prepared conversation that will teach you how to both agree and disagree with others constructively, a vital skill in our tumultuous political landscape. If you do not do the preparation, you cannot participate in the discussion and will receive a zero for classwork for the day. Please complete your reading of *Night*.

You MUST complete the final question, and six other questions of your choice, for a total of seven questions.

Answer the following questions in a paragraph EACH with **TEXTUAL EVIDENCE**:

1. Write a theme statement. Why do you think this is a theme in *Night?* Why do you think Wiesel interwove this theme in the text? Is there a particular story element that relates to this theme?
2. Describe some of the most important imagery in the novel. Why did you find this particularly valuable? Why do you think Wiesel chose these words?
3. What are some of the most important symbols in *Night?* How does that symbol relate to a theme? Why do you think that symbol is particularly powerful?
4. How did you emotionally react to *Night?* Why do you think you felt this way? What part of the text got you?
5. Elie’s faith changes throughout the novel. Why do you think that it changes? What are some of the most pivotal moments of his faith? Why would Wiesel choose to include this?
6. When Eliezer sees his father being beaten with an iron bar, he keeps silent and thinks of "stealing away" so he won't have to watch what's happening (p. 54). Instead of directing his anger at the Kapo, he becomes mad at his father. What do you think is really going on inside of Eliezer? Who is he really mad at?
7. Think of the kapos and the little blonde pipel who is hanged on page 64. Who are the bystanders? Who are the perpetrators? Who are the victims in Night? Do these roles sometimes overlap?
8. Look at the final scene in *Night,* when Elie looks at himself in the mirror. Why does he not recognize himself? While he might look physically different, he also is a different person. In what ways has he changed? Why do you think Wiesel chooses to show this image in only one or two sentences?
9. How did prejudice lead to racism in *Night*? How did racism lead to segregation? How did segregation lead to genocide?
10. Write at least one question for your classmates about the text.