Collecting Roses for those who survived:

A letter to the survivors

**Background:** In the years from 1915-1923, an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were systematically killed by the ruling government of the Ottoman Empire. However, those that survived can give us eyewitness accounts of the harrowing events that unfolded during those years, and stand as a reminder that we must never forget what happens when one group is allowed to dehumanize another. As we near the centennial of the beginnings of those brutal massacres, we can pay homage to the memories of the survivors by acknowledging their courageous acts and learning from their experiences in the hopes of preventing atrocities like this from happening again.

**Directions:** Now that you have “collected roses” for those who survived, review your answers to the critical thinking questions, paying close attention to the last two questions (*Which story did you find most memorable? Why? Why is it important for people to share their stories even after a genocide has occurred (for both the survivor and those hearing the stories)?*)

Write a letter to the survivor whose story most resonated with you. Your letter must include the following:

* Why you chose them
* What aspects of their story resonated with you?
* What was the impact of their story on your life?
* What you plan to do with this information now that you know their story?

\*We will collect these letters and create a “Wall of Remembrance” that includes a rose for each of the survivor stories we have “collected”.

**Grading:** Your response will be graded based on the Document Based Question Rubric (see attached).