

## *Speaking Up for Each Other*

**Directions:** Read this poem and think about what it means to you. Next, fill out the sentence completion exercise that follows the poem. Share your ideas with your classmates.

**“First They Came for . . .”**

In Germany they came first for the Communists,  
And I didn't speak up  
Because I wasn't a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews,  
And I didn't speak up  
Because I wasn't a Jew.

Then they came for the trade unionists,  
And I didn't speak up  
Because I wasn't a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics,  
And I didn't speak up  
Because I was a Protestant.

Then they came for me,  
And by that time  
No one was left to speak up.

Poem written by Reverend Martin Niemoller, 1945.

**Sentence Completion Exercise:** Please record how you would complete each sentence.

1. I have spoken up about
2. I have not spoken up about
3. People don't speak up sometimes because
4. People will speak up if
5. I will speak up if
6. My friends will speak up when
7. As a class, we can speak up when
8. It is easier to speak up when
9. It is harder to speak up when
10. I will help others speak up if