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