

Name:
Date:

Remembering To Never Forget, by Mark Memmott

Directions: As you read, annotate for what the text is saying about silence.



Rafael Trujillo, nicknamed El Jefe, Dictator of the Dominican Republic from 1930 until his assassination in 1961.

1 Seventy five years ago, thousands of Haitians were murdered in the Dominican Republic by a brutal dictator. It was one of the 20th Century's least-remembered acts of genocide.

2 As many as 20,000 people are thought to have been killed on orders given by Rafael Trujillo. But the massacre went mostly unnoticed outside Hispaniola. Even there, many Dominicans never knew about what happened in early October 1937. They were kept in the dark by Trujillo's henchmen.

3 This week, people from around the world are expected to gather in the Dominican Republic for a "Border of Lights" commemoration that aims to "honor a tragedy long forgotten, and unknown to many people."

4 Writer and Middlebury College professor Julia Alvarez, the daughter of Dominicans and someone who lived there as a child, said today that the killings must be acknowledged and testified to. "We can't change the present or the future unless we acknowledge what has happened. There's no place on this planet anymore where that should be happening. It's time that the people themselves say ... 'that's enough.' "

5 Trujillo, as the Border of Lights website explains, fed and nurtured anti-Haitian sentiment and created an atmosphere that still excludes ethnic Haitians from becoming part of "the Dominican melting pot."

Write a body paragraph answering the following question: How does the text develop a central idea about silence? *This is due at the end of class for a quiz grade.*

You need to include:

- Your point (What is the text’s opinion on silence?)
- At least two pieces of evidence from the text that support your point.
- Analysis (Use your annotations and the sentence starters for “Building Strong Arguments” on the desks to help!)

[illegible]