

ART AND THE HOLOCAUST PROGRAM

The **Institute for Holocaust Education** invites art teachers of middle school students (grades 6-8) to participate in a Holocaust related art project which will culminate in select pieces being exhibited at the Jewish Community Center during a special evening with students, teachers, family members, survivors and the IHE staff (April). To begin the project, teachers will give their students a lesson in the Holocaust, providing some background knowledge with provided materials and resources. Participating teachers will commit to providing their students with at least one full class period of Holocaust background study before commencing with the visual art portion of the project. Students will be asked to submit a written Reflection Sheet after the art project is completed. The IHE provides curriculum resources for each project and a stipend to be used for art supplies.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. To become familiar with individual people and cultural history in the Holocaust.
2. To use art as a method to learn about the Holocaust.
3. To understand and apply portraiture and experience media while learning about individuals of the Holocaust.
4. To understand visual arts in relation to history and other disciplines and to relate that knowledge to the student's current life.
5. To reflect upon the effectiveness of the project.

Three Visual Art Options:

OPTION ONE can be found at: <http://memoryprojectproductions.com/> . This art project involves making a charcoal portrait of a victim of the Holocaust from a photograph. The website provides tutorial instruction for the students' drawings, an educator's guide, and a 10-minute documentary film. Each of these is a free download. A pdf file of 30 Holocaust victims' photos and our survivors is on a thumb drive. This project also suggests using a family member who has had a life changing experience as a subject. This would be an acceptable subject as long as the student can make a connection to the Holocaust on their [Reflection Sheet](#). The suggested time frame for this project is three class periods.

OPTION TWO is based on "Beyond Words: the Art of Literature/the Language of Arts" - a chapter in *Seeking Diversity: Language Arts for Adolescents* by Linda Rief (Heinemann, 1992). This project could be done as an individual or a group project. Students will create a mural representing a piece of Holocaust literature or a Holocaust story, accompanied by an Artist's Statement. This can be done in a variety of media. The required time depends on the manner in which the teacher structures the lessons, generally 4-6 class periods.



OPTION THREE is an artifact collage. This project could be done as an individual or a group project. Students will create a mural composed of Holocaust artifacts, accompanied by an Artist's Statement. This can be done in a variety of media. Images of artifacts are provided through several Holocaust links. The required time depends on the manner in which the teacher structures the lessons, generally 4-6 class periods.

These projects align with national and state standards for the visual arts, grades 5-8.

Art & the Holocaust

REFLECTION SHEET – Option 1

1. Who is the subject of your drawing? Why did you choose this person?

2. If the person you chose to draw was not involved in the Holocaust, how would you relate their experiences to those of victims of the Holocaust?

3. What do you want people to know about the person you chose?

What do you have in common with this person?

4. What were some of your thoughts and feelings as you worked on this project?

5. What surprised you about your finished project?

6. If you could (or when you do) talk to this person, what would you tell them about this project?

Art & the Holocaust

REFLECTION SHEET – Option 2/3

1. What piece of Holocaust literature/story did you choose? What made you choose this piece?

OR Why did you choose the artifacts for your collage?

2. How did you go about designing your project?

3. What message did you hope to convey about this piece of literature to an audience?

4. What have you learned from this experience? (about the Holocaust, art, design?)

5. What surprises you about your finished project?
