

Making Meaning: A Found Poem Project

You are going to draw together meaning out of the Holocaust testimonies by creating a found poem with your group members. A “found poem” is one that is created using only words, phrases, or quotations that have been selected and rearranged from other text(s).



To create found poems, you must →

- Choose powerful language that is particularly meaningful or interesting
 - Powerful Language leaves a lasting impression
 - Powerful language employs words that convey a depth of meaning and emotion.
 - Powerful Language enhances recall to the source material
- Organize the language around a theme or message.

Project Requirements →

- ☐ Compose an original poem based on the words/phrases from Holocaust Testimonies
- ☐ Organize your words/phrases based on a chosen theme topic
- ☐ Identify the message being conveyed through your poem
- ☐ Include an original title
- ☐ Present your poem in an aesthetically pleasing manner with 3-4 visual elements (colors, materials, images, etc.)

Get Started →

Review the testimony profile cards you have previously analyzed. Record words, phrases (3-5 words together), or quotations that are particularly interesting or meaningful. Find 15 and 20 different words or phrases (3-5 words together) so that you have plenty of ideas from which to choose when composing your poem.

- Write your 15-20 words/phrases on the slips of paper
 - 1 word/phrase per slip of paper
- Be sure to write the Testimony Profile Card **LETTER** and **NUMBER** somewhere on the slip of paper
 - or on the back of the paper
 - You will need to cite the interviewees with your project.

Then →

As a group, bring your words and phrases together and group similar words/phrases together.

- For example, if you have several words/phrases that feel familiar or alike to you, they would go together.
- Do this until all the words/phrases are sorted.

- If you have two+ people with the same words/phrases, that's okay. Organize them together.

When you have grouped words/phrases together into similar ideas →

Choose the group(s) of words that you want to work with on your Found Poem and identify the theme topic that represents some or all of the language you have selected.

A theme topic is a broad concept such as "obedience" or "loyalty." A message is a specific idea they would like to express about this Theme. See the theme topic list and choose from there OR Mrs. Baker can approve a theme topic you decided upon together.

<p>What theme topic did you organize these words/phrases into? Choose from the list.</p>	
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Additional Notes on the Composition of your Poem →

- ☐ You may delete words (from chosen phrases)
- ☐ You may only add 2-3 of your own words to make your poem flow more smoothly.
- ☐ You may make minor changes: tenses, punctuation, capitalization, plural.
- ☐ Add a title.
- ☐ Emphasize words by playing with boldface, italics, different sizes of letters, materials etc.
- ☐ Cut the poem out, place phrases/words around the picture to complete your found poem.

