

Making Meaning: A Found Poem Project

In this project, you will delve into the Holocaust testimonies to craft a found poem alongside your group members. A found poem is a poetic form created by utilizing words, phrases, or quotations selected and rearranged from existing texts.

Guidelines for Found Poems:

- Select powerful language that is meaningful and interesting
- Utilize words that convey deep emotions and meaning to leave a lasting impression
- Organize the language around a central theme or message

Project Requirements:

- Create an original poem using words and phrases from Holocaust testimony
- Organize the words/phrases around a chosen thematic topic
- Clearly identify the message conveyed through your poem
- Develop an original title for your poem
- Present your poem in an aesthetically pleasing manner with 3-4 visual elements (colors, materials, images, etc.)
- Write a SAR in response to a literary aspect of your poem

Getting Started:

- Review the testimony profile cards previously analyzed
- Record words, phrases (3-5 words together), or quotations that are particularly interesting or meaningful
- Find 15 to 20 different words or phrases (3-5 words together) for generating ideas when composing your poem
- Write each word/phrase on individual slips of paper, ensuring they strongly resonate with the reader and convey depth of meaning and emotion
- Include the Testimony Profile Card **LETTER** and **NUMBER** on each slip of paper
- Cite the interviewees in your project.

Part Two: Group Work and Theme Selection

After compiling your individual words and phrases, it's time to collaborate with your group members and group similar words and phrases together. If multiple group members have the same words or phrases, they should be organized together.

Grouping and Theme Selection:

- Combine similar words and phrases into groups based on their shared ideas or themes
- Choose the group(s) of words and phrases that you wish to incorporate into your Found Poem
- Identify a theme topic that represents the language you have selected
- You can select a theme topic from the provided list

Remember to:

- Ensure that the chosen theme topic is represented by the language you have selected
- Clearly identify the message you wish to express about the chosen theme

Seeking Approval:

Once the theme topic is chosen, Mrs. Baker can provide approval or suggest modifications if necessary.

Themes from Testimonies of Holocaust Survivors, Liberators, and Resisters

Select the theme topic you have chosen to center your poem around.

- Survival and Resilience:** Explore the themes of survival and resilience in the face of unimaginable adversity and persecution.
- Loss and Grief:** Examine the profound experiences of loss and grief endured by individuals affected by the Holocaust, including survivors, liberators, and resisters.
- Human Rights and Dignity:** Discuss the violations of human rights and the struggle to uphold human dignity during one of history's darkest periods.
- Resistance and Defiance:** Highlight acts of resistance and defiance against oppression and injustice, showcasing the courage and determination of those who resisted the Holocaust.
- Memory and Commemoration:** Reflect on the importance of preserving the memory of the Holocaust and honoring the experiences of survivors, liberators, and resisters.
- Interpersonal Relationships:** Explore the impact of the Holocaust on interpersonal relationships, including friendships, family bonds, and acts of solidarity.
- Justice and Reconciliation:** Discuss the pursuit of justice and reconciliation in the aftermath of the Holocaust, addressing the complexities of healing and remembrance.
- Historical Responsibility:** Consider the broader implications of historical responsibility and the lessons to be learned from the experiences of survivors, liberators, and resisters.
- Identity and Belonging:** Examine the themes of identity and belonging, including the impact of displacement, persecution, and the quest for a sense of belonging.
- Tolerance and Understanding:** Highlight the importance of tolerance, empathy, and understanding in the context of learning from the testimonies of Holocaust survivors, liberators, and resisters.

Additional Notes on Found Poem Composition

When crafting your found poem, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- You have the freedom to delete words from the chosen phrases to enhance the flow and meaning of your poem
- The addition of 2-3 of your own words is permitted to ensure smoothness and coherence
- Minor modifications such as tense, punctuation, capitalization, and pluralization are acceptable
- Provide a title for your found poem that encapsulates its essence
- Experiment with emphasizing words through boldface, italics, varied letter sizes, or other materials to enhance the visual impact
- Once composed, cut out the poem and arrange the phrases and words around a picture to complete your found poem.

EXAMPLE FROM LAST YEAR:

Suffered

“Crawl out Jew, I can see you.”
Screams,
They went into the ghetto and found every hiding place,
Suffered
Ambushed,
Almost like **wild** animals,
“Your name **is** your number.”

The **delusion**, the **disappointment** ...

Chance of survival ... **minimal**

Suffered

"We did not know where they were taken to."

Gassed,

Poor,

"And therefore, these people

Would **suffer**.

The theme of this poem revolves around the profound suffering experienced by individuals during the Holocaust. It delves into the anguish, fear, and dehumanization endured by the victims, highlighting the harrowing realities of their experiences.

The theme of the poem aligns closely with "Human Rights and Dignity" and "Resistance and Defiance." It delves into the violations of human rights and the struggle to uphold human dignity during the Holocaust, while also highlighting acts of resistance and defiance against oppression and injustice.

Arbeit Macht Frei

"work makes you free"

You could imagine hell

Shooting was heard

They shot the middle one so they fell in

Killing them on the spot

Auschwitz

No toilet, no water, no food

We had three rooms

Separated

Unpleasant

Hell

The theme of this poem centers around the dehumanizing and horrific conditions experienced by individuals in concentration camps during the Holocaust. It reflects the extreme suffering, deprivation, and inhumane treatment endured by the victims.

This poem relates closely to the theme of "Human Rights and Dignity" and "Memory and Commemoration." It speaks to the violations of human rights and the struggle to uphold human dignity during the Holocaust, as well as the importance of preserving the memory of the Holocaust and honoring the experiences of survivors, liberators, and resisters.

Rubric: Making Meaning - A Found Poem Project

Criteria	Excellent (5)	Proficient (4)	Basic (3)	Below Basic (2)	Unsatisfactory (1)
Selection of Language	Selects powerful and exceptionally meaningful language, effectively conveying deep emotions and leaving a lasting impression	Chooses meaningful and interesting language that conveys deep emotions	Utilizes language that conveys some emotions and meaning	Uses language with limited emotional impact	Language selection lacks depth and meaning
Organization of Language	Demonstrates a strong ability to organize language cohesively around a central theme or message, creating a profound impact	Organizes language effectively around a central theme or message	Organizes language around a central theme with some coherence	Demonstrates limited organization of language around a central theme	Fails to organize language around a central theme
Originality and Theme Development	Shows exceptional creativity in creating an original poem, effectively conveying a compelling thematic topic and a clear message	Demonstrates creativity in creating an original poem with a clear thematic topic and message	Develops an original poem with a thematic topic and message	Presents a somewhat original poem with a thematic topic and message	Lacks originality and a clear thematic topic and message
Title Development	Develops a highly creative and fitting original title that enhances the impact of the poem	Creates an original title that effectively complements the poem	Develops a suitable title for the poem	Provides a basic title for the poem	Title choice does not complement the poem

Aesthetic Presentation	Presents the poem in an exceptionally aesthetic manner with 3-4 visually captivating elements that enhance the overall impact	Presents the poem in an aesthetically pleasing manner with 3-4 visual elements	Presents the poem with some visual elements, but lacks overall aesthetic appeal	Includes minimal visual elements with limited aesthetic impact	Presentation lacks visual elements and aesthetic appeal
Short Answer Response (SAR)	Provides a highly insightful and comprehensive SAR that effectively analyzes a literary aspect of the poem	Offers a proficient SAR that analyzes a literary aspect of the poem	Presents a basic SAR that touches on a literary aspect of the poem	Provides a limited SAR with minimal analysis of a literary aspect	SAR lacks depth and analysis of a literary aspect

Each criterion will be scored on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 being the lowest.