

Writing Activity: Why We Remember—A Synthesis

Directions Compose a creative written product such as a poem, song, letter, editorial, or journal entry in which you present your feelings about why the Holocaust should be remembered and studied.

Definition In synthesizing you combine or rearrange statements, feelings, or ideas to provide a new or fresh perspective on a topic.

The process of synthesis may appear to be mysterious and uncontrollable. After all, what is more unpredictable than creating something new? But there are ways to stimulate the creative process. Try one of the suggestions below.

- I. **Using Quotations** Copy three short quotations from the selections in this cluster that you feel are meaningful or powerful. Then write a short synthesis statement about the quotations. Use your statement as prewriting for your creative piece.

Selection	Quotation
Synthesis Statement	

- II. **In a Character's Voice** Select one of the characters from the selections in this cluster. Then write a letter, poem, or journal entry from that character's perspective.

Character: _____

Remember, a strong synthesis

- begins with a careful analysis of details
- develops into a rearrangement of material
- shares a distinctly fresh viewpoint in a personal and new way

Essay Test

Using what you have learned while reading *Voices of the Holocaust* and what you already know, respond to the following question. This is an open book test. Use quotations to support your response.

Prompt: Given the history of prejudice in the United States, could a holocaust happen here?

General Standards and Criteria for Project Evaluation

Apply those standards that fit the specific project. Some standards might not be used.

Standards	Criteria			
Areas of Assessment	High	Very Good	Adequate	Needs Work
Research and Preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources • Evidence • Deadlines • Use of Time 	<input type="checkbox"/> used a variety of challenging, reliable, and appropriate resources <input type="checkbox"/> used appropriate evidence and examples <input type="checkbox"/> met all deadlines <input type="checkbox"/> used any extra time to extend research	<input type="checkbox"/> used several reliable, appropriate resources <input type="checkbox"/> made effort to use evidence and examples <input type="checkbox"/> met deadlines <input type="checkbox"/> used preparation time well	<input type="checkbox"/> used minimum number of resources for basic information <input type="checkbox"/> used some evidence and examples <input type="checkbox"/> needed encouragement to meet deadlines <input type="checkbox"/> spent minimal time on preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> used few resources <input type="checkbox"/> used little evidence and few examples <input type="checkbox"/> didn't meet all deadlines <input type="checkbox"/> spent little time on preparation
Content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose • Organization • Audience Appeal • Information • Sources 	<input type="checkbox"/> creatively fulfilled purpose <input type="checkbox"/> used logical, easy-to-follow order <input type="checkbox"/> created and maintained high audience interest <input type="checkbox"/> covered topic with outstanding information <input type="checkbox"/> credited sources	<input type="checkbox"/> completely fulfilled purpose <input type="checkbox"/> used easy-to-follow order <input type="checkbox"/> kept audience's attention <input type="checkbox"/> covered topic with appropriate information <input type="checkbox"/> credited sources	<input type="checkbox"/> fulfilled purpose <input type="checkbox"/> used order that was confusing at times <input type="checkbox"/> lost audience's attention at times <input type="checkbox"/> covered the basics <input type="checkbox"/> credited sources	<input type="checkbox"/> did not fulfill purpose <input type="checkbox"/> used hard-to-follow order <input type="checkbox"/> created little audience interest <input type="checkbox"/> omitted important information <input type="checkbox"/> provided incomplete credits
Visual Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audience Appeal • Purpose • Effectiveness • Effort 	<input type="checkbox"/> were highly interesting, easy to see and understand <input type="checkbox"/> supported purpose <input type="checkbox"/> communicated main ideas clearly <input type="checkbox"/> showed outstanding effort	<input type="checkbox"/> were interesting, easy to see and understand <input type="checkbox"/> supported purpose <input type="checkbox"/> communicated main ideas <input type="checkbox"/> showed effort	<input type="checkbox"/> were somewhat interesting <input type="checkbox"/> were related to purpose <input type="checkbox"/> generally supported main ideas <input type="checkbox"/> showed fair effort	<input type="checkbox"/> were messy, disorganized, hard to understand <input type="checkbox"/> were unrelated to purpose <input type="checkbox"/> didn't support main ideas <input type="checkbox"/> showed little effort
Written Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accuracy • Revision • Details 	<input type="checkbox"/> had few errors <input type="checkbox"/> were thoroughly proofread and revised <input type="checkbox"/> supported main ideas with rich details	<input type="checkbox"/> had few errors <input type="checkbox"/> were proofread and revised <input type="checkbox"/> supported main ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> had several errors <input type="checkbox"/> needed more proofreading and revision <input type="checkbox"/> weakly supported main ideas	<input type="checkbox"/> had many errors <input type="checkbox"/> needed to be proofread and revised <input type="checkbox"/> didn't support main ideas
Oral Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery • Props • Eye Contact 	<input type="checkbox"/> spoke audibly and expressively <input type="checkbox"/> used engaging gestures and props <input type="checkbox"/> maintained excellent eye contact	<input type="checkbox"/> spoke audibly and expressively <input type="checkbox"/> used gestures and props <input type="checkbox"/> maintained good eye contact	<input type="checkbox"/> could develop more expression <input type="checkbox"/> used few or awkward gestures and props <input type="checkbox"/> attempted to maintain eye contact	<input type="checkbox"/> was difficult to hear <input type="checkbox"/> used few or distracting gestures and props <input type="checkbox"/> made little attempt to maintain eye contact