

# **Florida Holocaust Museum of St. Petersburg Project Guidelines**

## **Background Information: Central Mission of the Museum**

Central to the mission of the Florida Holocaust Museum is the program to collect, preserve, and make available to the public the historical record and artistic and interpretation of the Holocaust and other genocides. The Museum collects and maintains the material that supports its efforts in the areas of research, exhibition, education, and commemoration. The focus of the Museum's collecting efforts (and collection) is on the policies, events, and experiences associated with the Holocaust. The Museum's collecting activity extends backward to the end of the World War I and forward to the close of the Jewish displaced persons (DP) camps in the mid-1950s. These chronological boundaries can be further extended by collecting materials related to Holocaust and crimes against humanity war crimes trials; testimonies about the Holocaust and its aftermath; materials regarding restitution efforts; contemporary documentation concerning Holocaust deniers; other known and documented instances of genocide; the civil rights struggle in the United States and elsewhere; current examples of discrimination; and by accepting other materials in order to preserve the integrity of personal collections when they are offered for donation. It is also a major focus of the Museum to acquire art that relates to the Holocaust, genocide and appropriate areas of the human condition.

In order to continue to document the Holocaust accurately, authentically, and powerfully, the Florida Holocaust Museum continues to seek original material about the Holocaust, the American and world responses, armed and spiritual resistance and rescue, liberation, and the reestablishment of life after the Holocaust.

The Museum is imploring survivors and subsequent generations of the Tampa Bay community to share their stories. We are looking for original documents (such as identity cards, work permits, ration cards, passports, immigration certificates, ship tickets, postcards), letters, diaries, original works of art and music, photographs, clothing, religious materials, *yizkor* books, personal artifacts, toys, historic film footage, home movies, and other artifacts that were kept with you, created, and/or used throughout the time period surrounding the Holocaust. Your stories are very important to us.

As an American Association of Museums accredited institution, the Museum assumes full responsibility for its long term care and storage and commits itself to making this material accessible to curators, scholars and researchers, in perpetuity.

## **Guide to Exhibitions and Project Requirements for Final Project**

The Florida Holocaust Museum features both permanent and temporary exhibitions.

### **FIRST FLOOR**

On the first floor of the Museum is the *History, Heritage and Hope* Permanent Exhibition that recounts the history of the Holocaust through historical photographs, text, and original artifacts.

**Task 1-** As you walk through this floor observe carefully the focus of each individual exhibit. Take notes for each one with the following information:

- Title of Exhibit
- Types of Artifacts on Display- Describe the main ones and some of the minor ones as well.
- Describe any pictures (photos or artwork) that are part of the exhibit.
- If there are any survivor testimonies on display take one and quote it in your paper, giving the source and exact quote you found interesting.
- Are there any artifacts from local Florida survivors? Describe them.
- What is the central message of this entire exhibit? Limit your answer to 150 words concisely telling the central message of it.
- When you are done with the first floor stop and mentally process what you have seen on the floor collectively. Write a one paragraph reaction to what you have seen. What new knowledge did this floor add to what you already knew about the Holocaust?

DO NOT FORGET TO INCLUDE THE BOXCAR.

Now move on to the second floor.

## **SECOND FLOOR**

The second floor galleries are home to the Museum's temporary exhibition program. Exhibitions featured in the Janet Kohn and Larry Wasser galleries rotate several times a year. The Museum's focus is exhibitions of contemporary artwork about the Holocaust, other genocides and human rights issues. These galleries may also feature history exhibitions with original artifacts and historical photographs.

**Task 2-** Repeat the same 7 steps in Task 1 for the exhibits on this floor.

## **THIRD FLOOR**

Kane's Furniture Hall on the third floor of the Florida Holocaust Museum features both temporary and permanent exhibitions. In the Herbert & Isabel Savel Teaching Gallery of the third floor, the permanent exhibition, *Kaddish in Wood*, features woodcarvings of French children of the Holocaust created by Dr. Herbert Savel. Temporary exhibitions in Kane's Furniture Hall include small history exhibitions as well as student-created artwork.

**Task 3-** Repeat the same 7 steps in Task 1 and 2 for the exhibits on this floor. Pay special attention to the woodcarvings of the French children. Find out what the word Kaddish means and why it is a suitable word to use as part of the title of this exhibit

**Task 4-** Write a summary of your entire visit. Address the following issues in your summary.

1. What was your first impression upon arriving at the museum?
2. Was there anything about the architectural design of the museum that helped tell the story of what happened in the Holocaust?

3. Which 3 exhibits impressed you the most? What about them will stay in your mind long after the visit?
4. How has the trip enhanced your knowledge and understanding of the Shoah? What specifically did you learn that was a major new learning on your part?
5. Add some pictures to your report and include a cover page. If you are not able to take photos in the museum itself then find related pictures on the Internet and past them into the report where they would enhance what you are describing in the text. In other words, just any old Holocaust picture will not be acceptable. Make sure it specifically relates to the exhibit your are describing in the text near it.

Each task (1,2,3,4) will be worth 25 points to total 100 possible points.