

Final Project Guidelines for Reporting on a Visit to the Holocaust Education and Resource Center Museum in Maitland, Fl.

Permanent Exhibit

The permanent exhibit of the Holocaust Memorial Center museum serves two purposes. The first is to present an overview history of the Holocaust. The second is to serve as a memorial to the victims. The displays consist primarily of photographs and text, supplemented by artifacts, art works, and short film presentations. The museum display consists of twelve segments, each introducing a major theme of the Holocaust.

A note for visitors: These displays tell the story of the horrors of the Holocaust, but out of respect for victims and families they do not rely on graphic images of Nazi brutality.

*You written report should include at least all of the following information and responses. ** The required questions are in italic print here.*

Introduction

Visitors to the Holocaust Memorial Center are greeted by the following quote from Elie Wiesel, “Whoever forgets, becomes the executioners’ accomplice.”

What are the messages expressed in this quote?

How We Are Today

This display demonstrates that Jewish people, including Holocaust survivors, are part of our community. It also shows that prejudices are still a danger in our world today.

*** In your own words explain what is in this exhibit and what you see as the central message.*



How We Were Then

This panel draws comparisons between life before the Holocaust and our own times. Then as now, Jews were an integral part of the communities in which they lived.

*** Explain in what ways they were and integral part of their community before the Holocaust. What are the communities mentioned in the panel. Describe Jewish life back then.*

The Life Before* This section elaborates on Jewish life before the Holocaust and reveals that prejudice against Jews was deeply rooted in the history of Europe. It also introduces the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany.

*** Describe the specific acts of anti-Semitism and how the Nazi party used anti-Semitism to accomplish their goals.*

Threatening Jews, Stifling Political Opposition

This presentation describes the progression of the Nazi persecution of the Jews. It began with anti-Jewish stereotypes in propaganda and continued through periodic acts of social, political, and economic discrimination. It became an organized program of physical violence with the Kristallnacht pogrom in November of 1938, but by then the gradual nature of the anti-Semitic program obscured the magnitude of the danger.

*** What were the stereotypes of the Jews in the Nazi propaganda?*

*** What were some of the specific ways the Jews were discriminated against?*

*** What new information did you learn from this display?*

War – Persecution – Ghetto

This panel describes how the Nazis began the destruction of the Jewish communities of Germany and occupied Europe. Jews were forced into ghettos in Poland and other occupied countries, and many of these ghettos were sealed. They quickly became places of starvation, sickness, and death. The Nazis had begun their program of mass murder.

*** According to this display what were the actions of the Nazis that were effective in their attempt to “destroy” the Jewish community? Describe the parts of this presentation display and what was most interesting to you as a viewer.*

Death Camps – Life in the Camps

These two sections chronicle the fate of the victims who were sent to concentration or death camps. Most were sent to immediate execution, and those consigned to slave labor usually suffered the same ultimate fate.

*** What artifacts and or pictures are used in this display? How do they reinforce the theme of the display? What was the most interesting part of this display? How is the display divided into two sections? Is there a reason for this?*

Resistance

One of the most important lessons about the Holocaust is that the Jews fought back. Resistance could take other forms, Non-Jews resisted the Nazis, too, and because of their efforts they are now known as “Righteous Gentiles”. They proved that it was possible to live up to the highest ideals of humanity, even in the face of extreme danger.

*** What were some of the ways the Jews resisted according to the display? In what ways did non-Jews also resist the Nazis? What were the risks of resistance? How is resistance portrayed in this display?*

The Final Solution

This display explains the intent of the Nazis to solve what they called their “Jewish Problem” through mass murder. The panel describes the Einsatzgruppen (mobile killing units) executions

*** Describe the work of the Einsatzgruppen depicted in the display. What does the display explain? What is meant by propaganda and euphemistic language as used by the Nazis?*

The Last Journey

This area reveals the hatred and destruction of the Jews that was the fanatical core of Nazi ideology. The description of the death marches at the end of the war demonstrates the unwillingness of the perpetrators to release their victims, even though it would have been in their best interest to do so.

*** What is meant by the “Last Journey” as depicted here? What does it teach you about the Nazi perpetrators?*

Liberation

This section of the museum describes the liberation of the concentration camps by the allies. It explores the idea that the German public was forced to confront and accept responsibility for the crimes of the Holocaust. It also introduces the idea that the survivors were only at the beginning of a long struggle to reclaim their lives, with most seeking new homes outside of Europe (most in Palestine or the United States).

*** Describe what you see here about the “liberation” of the camps. What was the German public now forced to deal with or do? Why was this the beginning of another long journey for the survivors? Where did they go after liberation?*

Witness Histories: Survivor and Liberator Testimonies

This DVD presentation introduces museum visitors to local Holocaust survivors and liberators. The program was developed using excerpts of interviews from videotapes selected from the Holocaust Memorial Center archives. These interviews constitute a valuable and unique primary resource for our community.

*** Watch and report on the testimony of three survivors shown here? Who are they? What is their story?*

Artifacts and Works of Art:

Artifacts

Several display cases of artifacts are on exhibit throughout the museum to enhance the experience of visitors. These objects from the past can help visitors gain new insight and perspective on the people and events of the Holocaust.

*** Walk around the entire museum and re-examine the various artifacts and works of art. Describe 3 artifacts and 3 works of art in detail and explain why they caught your attention or what you found most interesting about each one.*



Art Works and Memorial Displays

Six memorial lamps are installed at the front wall of the museum. Each lamp represents one million of the Jewish victims of the Holocaust. They are also visible from the outside of the building. They are surrounded on either side by curved walls of Jerusalem stone. The drawings of Luba Gurdus present a stark portrayal of the camps as remembered by a survivor. A local artist, Wolf Kahn, created statues to honor the survivors and the liberators and designed the relief sculpture on the entry doors.

*** End your report with an evaluation of the entire museum. How effective is it in telling the story of the Holocaust? What did it add to your knowledge of the Holocaust? What impressed you the most? Would you recommend this as a place for other students in LIT 2174 to visit? Include pictures you took during your visit.*

DO NOT FORGET THE HALL OF SURVIVOR POSTERS AND LIBRARY AND TRAVELING EXHIBIT AREA.

- **Museum Hours**

Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 4 PM

Friday 9 AM - 1 PM

Sunday 1 PM - 4 PM

- No admission is charged for visiting the Center or for attending commemorative programs and films. Use of the library is also free. Your [donation](#) can help us continue to remember the past in order to protect the future.