



Viewing Guide: Connecting Students to Memorials via Arts/Makerspace

Overview

In this classroom video, visual arts teacher Rhiannon Van Bindsbergen recounts how her students created monuments and memorials to those who died during the Holocaust. Using the [Analyzing and Creating Memorials](#) lesson plan as her guide, Ms. Van Bindsbergen traces the interdisciplinary effort of this project, involving both the arts and humanities departments at her school. Several of Ms. Van Bindsbergen's students have personal connections to the Holocaust; Ms. Van Bindsbergen reviews how she was able to have students articulate and honor these connections through their memorials.

As you watch, consider the following:

1. What has the teacher done ahead of time to prepare for this lesson, particularly in relation to the cross-departmental approach this educator has taken?
2. For those who are not art teachers, how could you implement this lesson (perhaps in a shorter timeframe and/or with fewer/simpler materials)?
3. At 1:33, Ms. Van Bindsbergen says that her students were uncomfortable with the "sadness" of many Holocaust memorials. What might you do as an educator to acknowledge that discomfort?
4. This lesson is being taught at a Jewish day school. How might this lesson be approached differently in another setting?



In this video:

Rhiannon Van Bindsbergen, teacher
7th grade, Solomon Schechter Day School of
Greater Hartford
West Hartford, CT

Video Goals:

The purpose of watching this video is to:

- Appreciate the role that memorials and monuments play in our understanding of human history
- Witness how to implement the Analyzing and Creating Memorials lesson plan
- Observe students grappling with both the concept of memorialization and their own memorials and considering how these will shape their peers' understanding of history
- Articulate the role of the arts/makerspace in engaging with this history



Lesson Resources:

- [Lesson Plan: Analyzing and Creating Memorials](#)
- [Visual Essay: Holocaust Memorials and Monuments](#)
- [Handout: Creating a Memorial](#)
- [Holocaust and Human Behavior, Chapter 11](#)