**ELA 7 Holocaust BAM unit and Informative-Explanatory Essay Overview**

**I can:**

* Produce effective and well-supported writing for my purpose and audience
* Engage in inquiry to investigate a topic and to analyze, integrate, and present information
* Locate information to support my main idea and sub-topics
* Select and integrate information from print sources and film viewing
* Analyze my sources and determine relevant and irrelevant information
* Create ideas or opinions and cite evidence from my sources to support my ideas or opinions based on prior knowledge and evidence collected and analyzed
* Write an informative-explanatory essay on a topic focused on the Holocaust
* Organize my ideas by stating a focus-topic
* Include supporting evidence from various sources
* Explain how my evidence supports my focus-topic
* Provide a conclusion in support of my focus-topic
* Use precise language and style appropriate to my purpose and audience when drafting or revising
* Apply or edit grade-appropriate grammar, usage, and mechanics to present a clear message

**Part 1: Research**

**Your assignment:**

You will read the biography *Adolf Hitler: Dictator of Nazi Germany,* read the **Scholastic Scope** article *“The Boys who Fought Hitler”,* view the film *One Survivor Remembers,* view the 60 Minutes episode *“Saving the Children: Sir Nicholas Winton”* and read a selected BAM book about a Holocaust victim or survivor. You will complete the required close-reading/viewing and information gathering assignments given during the reading/writing workshop class periods each day. You will then use the information you have gathered to write an informational essay about a focus-topic on the Holocaust.

**Steps you will be following**:

In order to research, plan, and compose your essay, you will do all of the following:

1. Read **Scholastic Scope** “The Boys who Fought Hitler” and complete the notes called “The Power of Information.”
2. Read the biography *Adolf Hitler: Dictator of Nazi Germany*, taking notes on Hitler’s role as an oppressor, and complete the assigned workshop plan assignments given.
3. View the film *One Survivor Remembers,* taking notes as you view the film and participating in group discussions about the film.
4. View the 60 Minutes episode *Saving the Children: Sir Nicholas Winton*, taking notes on Nicholas Winton’s role as a bystander.
5. Read a selected Holocaust BAM book about a Holocaust victim or survivor and complete notes, and the assigned workshop plan assignments given.
6. Participate in book group discussions about the Holocaust BAM books to help make connections with books others are reading, focusing on the roles of “Oppressor”, “Victim”, and “Bystander.”
7. Organize your information and plan the writing of your essay using the required planning forms.

**Part 2: Informative-Explanatory Essay**

You will now review your notes, assignments, and five sources to plan, draft, and revise your essay. Use your notes and assignments and use evidence from your sources while planning, drafting, and revising.

**Your assignment:**

You are to write an informational essay on your selected focus-topic on the impact the roles of oppressor, victim, and bystander play during the Holocaust. In your essay present and maintain a controlling or main idea about your focus-topic. Effectively support your main idea with convincing, relevant evidence from two of your five sources. End your essay with a closing statement about your focus-topic and main idea.

**How your essay will be scored:**

1. **Statement of purpose/focus**—how well you clearly state and maintain your controlling idea or main idea
2. **Organization**—how well the ideas progress from the introduction to the conclusion using effective transitions and how well you stay on topic throughout the essay
3. **Elaboration of evidence**—how well you provide and introduce relevant evidence from sources about your topic and elaborate with specific information and explanation
4. **Language and vocabulary**—how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose, including the appropriate use of domain-specific vocabulary (Holocaust vocabulary list)
5. **Conventions**—how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling

**Now begin work on your essay**

Follow these steps when creating your essay:

1. **Plan**—fill in the required planning form using your notes, assignments, and sources
2. **Draft**—use your outlined information on your plan to develop your essay with an introduction, supporting paragraphs with clear, relevant evidence supporting your controlling or main idea, and a conclusion
3. **Revise**—read and make changes so your essay meets the scoring criteria. Final copies must be typed, double-spaced, and in a size 14 font. Essays must use Arial, Times New Roman, or Calibri as the font. Follow the guidelines given for formatting your essay.

**Other Helpful Resources in your ELA binder**

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| * English Language Arts Style Sheet
* Six Traits of Writing
* Developing Ideas in Writing
* Introduction and Conclusion Writing: Leads and Endings
* Organizing a Constructed Response
* Transitions
 | * Capitalization
* Commas
* Quotation Marks
* Using Numbers in your Writing
* Synonyms for Said
* Usage Words and Words Often Confused
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