Teaching about the Holocaust/Genocide, Prejudice & Bullying Using UDL (Universal Design for Learning)

Lesson Plans K – 12 Developed by:
The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

In collaboration with:
Office of Special Education Programs

and

The New Jersey Department of Education's Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services

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May, 2016

Dear Educator:

The New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education is committed to teaching ALL students the importance of the simple human dignity bestowed upon each of us and to practice respect for all people expressed through our thoughts, our words and our actions to build a more responsible, humane citizenry. To this end, the Commission collaborated with New Jersey educators and the Office of Special Education Programs in the Division of Learning Supports and Specialized Services at the New Jersey Department of Education to create Teaching about the Holocaust/Genocide, Prejudice and Bullying Using UDL (Universal Design for Learning).

The lesson plans included in this document were developed by New Jersey educators utilizing the principles of UDL – Teaching the Diverse Classroom. The lessons deal with the subject of the Holocaust/genocide, prejudice, discrimination and bullying prevention, as well as, acceptance, perseverance, and making choices.

We believe that they will be a valuable resource for classroom instruction as teachers implement the required curriculum and to facilitate a positive school climate. The Commission values your input for future revisions and also requests other lessons to implement other curriculum developed by the Commission utilizing the UDL concept. The suggestions may be sent to holocaust@doe.state.nj.us. The lesson plans and other material about the Holocaust and genocide may be viewed on our website http://www.nj.gov/education/holocaust/.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Glaser
Executive Director
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education

LMG/jab
DEDICATION

To all students who deserve to be taught the way they learn.

To all educators interested in teaching to the diversity of their classroom.

To all those victims and those who survived the evils of the Holocaust & Genocide making these lessons necessary.

and,

To Dr. Paul Winkler, who motivated students, mentored educators and created an environment in which survivors could make their stories part of history.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Introduction

This publication was produced by a team of experienced educators to provide teachers with a sampling of lesson/unit plans on the Holocaust for elementary, middle, and high school students that use the principles of Universal Design for Learning, or UDL.

What is UDL?

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a research-based framework for designing curricula—that is, educational goals, methods, materials, and assessments—that enable all individuals to gain knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm for learning. This is accomplished by simultaneously providing rich supports for learning and reducing barriers to the curriculum, while maintaining high achievement standards for all students.  

http://cast.org/udl/faq/

The three core principles of UDL (defined by CAST — see David H. Rose & Anne Meyer, Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning, ASCD, 2002) are:

1) Provide Multiple Means of Engagement
2) Provide Multiple Means of Representation
3) Provide Multiple Means of Action and Expression

Throughout the lesson/unit plans contained in this publication, examples of the three UDL principles have been identified by color, with green for Engagement, purple for Representation, and blue for Action and Expression. For more information about UDL, including many resources for educators, please visit the CAST website at www.cast.org

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards (revised May 2016) are referenced for each lesson. A complete version of the standards and appendices may be found at:  
http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/.

Uses for this Publication

The lesson/unit plans on the Holocaust contained in this publication can be used by teachers from a variety of disciplines. English language arts teachers will find many useful resources for the purpose of instructing students on reading, writing, and speaking. Social studies teachers will find many uses for the historical information contained in many of the lessons/units. Elementary school teachers will find resources that address teaching bully behavior prevention for the youngest of students. Middle and high school teachers will find plenty of ideas and resources for teaching their young adult students. In short, the lessons/units contained in this publication can serve as a resource and starting point for a broad range of teachers teaching a broad range of diverse students.