

Preparing Students for a Speakers Bureau Presentation:

- ✓ Before the speaker visit:
 - It is important that before the speaker visits your school, students are given the context and historical background to the Holocaust. Having this information will provide students the opportunity to examine the personal story of the speakers within the history.
 - Use other Holocaust Center resources to build lessons beforehand: borrow a [Teaching Trunk](#), use [online resources](#), schedule a [field trip](#), attend a [teacher workshop](#), and – time of year depending – assign the [Writing, Art, and Film Contest](#).
 - Review the speaker’s bio or [Survivor Encyclopedia](#) entry. Have students identify important places on a map, or look up Holocaust events that took place in that specific area.

- ✓ Instruct students beforehand about behavioral expectations.
 - Appreciation is best shown by being a good listener – sitting quietly and attentively.
 - Please ask students not to leave the room during a talk (i.e., take time for bio breaks beforehand). This also applies to teachers!
 - The Holocaust is a sensitive subject, and it can be difficult and emotionally draining for a speaker to give their presentation. This holds true for descendants of survivors as well.

- ✓ Remind students that the speaker can only speak to their own personal experience, and may not have knowledge of aspects of the Holocaust outside of their own experience or that of their family.

- ✓ Speakers enjoy interacting with students and appreciate their questions.
 - Students can prepare questions ahead of time, or ask questions based on the speaker’s presentation.
 - Questions could be about the speaker or the speaker’s family’s life before, during, or after the Holocaust.
 - Each speaker will have their own level of comfort speaking on each of these different time periods.

- ✓ After hearing from the speaker, it is important to provide students the opportunity to reflect. Speakers may discuss challenging topics that students will need more time to explore on their own. Reflections could include a full-class discussion, journaling, or writing a letter to the speaker (see reverse).

Debriefing after the speaker has left:

- ✓ Either that same day, or the next day, allow students time to debrief. This is a sensitive topic, and raises many questions that often surface only in the comfort of peers, or after a little time passes.
- ✓ The following prompts can be used for journaling, class discussion, or letters to the speaker alike:
 - Something new I learned from the speaker was...
 - After learning about the Holocaust in class, the speaker provided clarity on...
 - The speaker's story made me feel...
 - I would like to know more about...
 - After hearing this story, when I see an injustice taking place, I will...
 - I will most remember about the speaker's story...
- ✓ Please complete an online speaker [Evaluation Form](#). It is vital that our Speakers Bureau can continue to improve based on teacher and student feedback. Center staff will also send this link to you via email shortly after an engagement.
- ✓ Write thank you notes. Speakers enjoy hearing from students and reading their personal responses. Please send all correspondence to the Holocaust Center, and Center staff will make sure that the speaker receives them. We cannot give out speakers' personal mailing addresses.
(Speaker's Name)
c/o Holocaust Center for Humanity
2045 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121
- ✓ After the speaker visits, students should review and discuss historical context and new information the speaker may have mentioned. It may be helpful to review the speaker's biography that the Center provided, or to refer to a timeline of the Holocaust, and events, dates, or places the speaker mentioned.
- ✓ The Holocaust Center has suggestions for further study and research should students want to investigate the speaker's story or related stories and events.
 - [Survivor Encyclopedia: Washington State](#)
 - Meet the Speakers page on our website
 - USC Shoah Foundation – [Virtual History Archive](#)
 - [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum resources](#)
 - Contact the Holocaust Center about oral histories in our collection.