

Formal Proposal: Holocaust Trunk Pilot Project for Rural Nevada Schools

1. Introduction

Program Overview:

The **Holocaust Traveling Trunk Project** provides middle school students in rural Nevada with a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience about the Holocaust. Drawing inspiration from the Smithsonian's traveling trunks, this program offers trunks filled with educational materials such as artifacts, primary source documents, literature, multimedia resources, and interactive activities to enhance students' understanding of Holocaust history and its lasting impacts.

Target Audience:

The program is designed for middle school students in **rural and underserved areas** of Nevada, where access to specialized educational resources may be limited.

Multidisciplinary Approach:

The curriculum integrates elements from **history, literature, art, music, and personal narratives**, fostering a deeper engagement with the material while aligning with Nevada's social studies standards.

2. Project Goals

- **Immersive Learning:** Provide students with access to artifact-rich experiences that explore the Holocaust's history and its lasting effects.
- **Accessible Education:** Ensure students in underserved and rural areas have access to high-quality Holocaust education materials.
- **Standards Alignment:** Ensure content meets **Nevada Social Studies standards**, while incorporating cross-disciplinary elements to enhance student engagement.

3. Distribution Focus

Geographical Focus:

The trunks will prioritize distribution to rural and underserved middle schools in Nevada.

Pilot Schools:

1. **Carson Valley Middle School**, Carson City
2. **Dayton Middle School**, Lyon County*

3. **Hawthorne Junior High School**, Mineral County
4. **Spring Creek Middle School**, Elko County

Selection Criteria:

Schools are selected based on their rural location, limited access to specialized educational resources, and demonstrated administrative support for program implementation.

4. Training and Support

In-Person and Virtual Training (Up to 4 Sessions Per School):

- **Teacher Training:** Dedicated in-person sessions will focus on effectively using the trunks and integrating the materials into the curriculum and collecting feedback.
- **Hands-On Demonstration:** Educators will receive guidance on using the artifacts and adapting lesson plans to their classrooms.
- **Technical and Content Support:** Address any questions or challenges related to trunk materials and lesson delivery.

Virtual Support & Collaboration:

- **Ongoing Virtual Support:** Provide Q&A sessions and ongoing virtual support throughout the pilot.
 - **Collaborative Training Sessions:** Facilitate virtual meetings where teachers can share best practices and lessons learned.
 - **Resource Sharing:** Set up an online collaborative platform (e.g., Canvas) to provide access to lesson plans, videos, and shared resources.
 - **Feedback Collection:** Collect feedback from both students and staff to improve the program for future iterations.
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6. Budget Estimate for Distribution, Training, and Support

- **In-Person Training and Support:**
 - Travel: \$195 (Mileage for 200-300 miles round trip per school, \$0.655/mile)
 - Accommodation (as needed): \$300 (Estimated \$100 - \$150 per night, 1 night per school)
 - Meals and Incidentals: \$50 (\$50/day for 1 day per school)
- **Virtual Training & Collaboration:**
No additional travel costs.

Total Training Budget for Pilot Program: \$545 per School

Materials Budget per school: \$1055

7. Implementation Timeline

- **Months 1-3:**
 - Develop trunks, finalize curriculum, and set up virtual resources (Canvas course).
 - Plan and schedule in-person and virtual training sessions.
- **Months 4-6:**
 - Distribute trunks to pilot schools.
 - Conduct in-person training and provide on-site support.
 - Offer ongoing virtual support and collaboration.
- **Months 7-9:**
 - Collect feedback from teachers and students.
 - Evaluate program success based on established metrics.
- **Ongoing:**
 - Recognize schools with awards for exemplary use of the program.

8. Assessment and Evaluation

Program Success Metrics:

- **Student Engagement:** Track student interaction with the trunks and understanding of Holocaust history.
- **Teacher Feedback:** Regularly collect teacher feedback on content effectiveness and ease of use.
- **Curriculum Integration:** Monitor how effectively the trunks are integrated into the schools' existing curricula.

Feedback Collection:

Surveys and virtual check-ins will gather insights from teachers, students, and administrators to refine the program.

Awards & Recognition:

Schools that successfully implement the trunks will be acknowledged with awards, providing positive reinforcement and motivation.

9. Conclusion

The **Holocaust Trunk Project** seeks to deliver an engaging, comprehensive, and interactive Holocaust education experience to rural Nevada middle schools. By offering immersive, hands-on learning opportunities, the project will equip educators with the tools and training necessary to make Holocaust education accessible and meaningful. Through professional development,

curriculum support, and virtual collaboration, this pilot program will lay the foundation for expanding Holocaust education to underserved communities across the state.

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Trunk 6. The Aftermath: Liberation and Memory

- **Objective:** To explore the liberation of the camps, the survivors' experiences post-war, and the importance of memory.
- **Items:**
 - Reproductions of liberation photographs
 - Letters or diary entries from liberators
 - A replica of a Displaced Persons camp registration card
 - A small memorial candle and Yad Vashem remembrance certificates
- **Educational Materials:**
 - Teacher guide and Lesson plans on the Nuremberg Trials
 - Activities focused on Holocaust memorials and museums around the world such as virtual field trips
 - A project guide for students to create their own remembrance project
 - Survivor interviews or video testimonies
 - Novel: *The Devil's Arithmetic* by Jane Yolen
 - Description: This novel follows a modern-day Jewish girl who is transported back in time to a Nazi concentration camp, where she experiences life during the Holocaust.
 - Connection: Bridges the past and present, encouraging students to reflect on the memory and legacy of the Holocaust.
 - Picture Book: *The Journey That Saved Curious George: The True Wartime Escape of Margret and H.A. Rey* by Louise Borden
 - Description: Tells the true story of how the creators of *Curious George* escaped Nazi-occupied France.
 - Connection: Connects the beloved children's book characters to real historical events, illustrating the broader impact of the war on individuals.
- **Connections**
 - Music:
 - Composer: Arnold Schoenberg - Include *A Survivor from Warsaw*, a powerful piece that recounts the experience of a Holocaust survivor.
 - Piece: "Ani Ma'amin" - A traditional Jewish song of faith that was sung by many during the Holocaust and later in memorial services.
 - Art:
 - Artist: Anselm Kiefer - Discuss his works that deal with the memory of the Holocaust, such as *Margarethe* and *Sulamith*.
 - Activity: Students can create their own memorial art, reflecting on what they've learned and the importance of remembering the Holocaust.

- Theater/Film
 - "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" (2008)
 - Description: This film tells the story of an unlikely friendship between the son of a Nazi officer and a Jewish boy in a concentration camp.
 - Connection: Explores themes of innocence, guilt, and the moral implications of the Holocaust.
 - "Judgment at Nuremberg" (1961)
 - Description: This courtroom drama centers on the Nuremberg Trials, where Nazi war criminals were prosecuted.
 - Connection: Provides insight into the legal and ethical issues surrounding the aftermath of the Holocaust.
- **Standards**
 - **8.25.6:** Discuss the consequences of World War II, including the Nuremberg Trials and the establishment of international human rights laws.
 - **7.27.2:** Explain the importance of memory, memorials, and the historical significance of events like the Holocaust.
 - **8.26.5:** Explore the legacy of World War II and the Holocaust on contemporary society, including the impact on laws, ethics, and global relations.