

LESSON PLAN

LETTERS TO THE PAST:

Connecting through TikTok and
memory



English



Poland



Biographies



15-18 years



90 min

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Objectives

- **Engage students with real-life Holocaust stories** through short-form video that feels relevant and accessible.
- **Encourage empathy and personal connection** by inviting students to reflect and write letters to individuals from the past.
- **Develop emotional literacy and historical awareness** by discussing the impact of memory, loss, and resilience.
- **Introduce digital storytelling as a tool for remembrance** and critical thinking about how we share history today.

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Main Activity

Part 1: Watch & Discuss



20-25 min

1. Students watch selected TikToks (use QR codes or play on screen).
Suggested videos:

- Felicia Haberfeld and her daughter
- Marta & Olga (first day of school)
- Szymon Kluger (last Jewish resident of Oświęcim)
- Henryk Enoch (school notebook)
- The Feiner brothers (survivors)

2. Short educator-led discussion after viewing:

- *What moment or detail stayed with you?*
- *Did anything feel familiar or surprisingly emotional?*
- *Why do you think this person's story matters today?*

Part 2: Letter Writing



25-30 min

Prompt:

Choose one person from the videos. Imagine you could write them a letter — what would you say?

Guide them with a few suggestions:

- Tell them what their story made you feel
- Share something about your own life they might relate to
- Ask them a question
- Offer something — hope, memory, connection

Let students know:

“This is your personal connection to history. It doesn’t need to be perfect. Just real.”



Closing



20 min

1. Sharing Letters (Optional, 10–15 min)

- Invite volunteers to read aloud — no pressure.
- Emphasize respect, listening, and openness.

2. Final Reflection

- *Was writing this letter harder or easier than you expected?*
- *How did it change the way you think about the past?*
- *Why do you think remembering ordinary people is important?*



LINKS: SHORT FORM VIDEO

1. https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7458566731909336342?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7464493860392879638
2. <https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7459293500979318038>
3. https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7464499511990193430?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7464493860392879638
4. https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7463754351769668886?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7464493860392879638
5. https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7461891043328412950?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7464493860392879638