

LESSON PLAN

“CAUTION! SHORT VIDEOS!”



English



Austria



Education



14-18 years



35 min



LESSON PLAN

“Caution! Short Videos!”



OBJECTIVES

1. Develop and enhance historical judgment, critical source analysis skills and media literacy by analysing videos.
2. Deepen understanding of different perspectives in Holocaust storytelling.
3. Formulate meaningful questions and develop own creative ideas.

The lesson focuses on using the SHOAH STORIES student interface and lets students explore videos on Holocaust (education) on their own. The videos are then critically discussed (content + style). There are three suggestions on how to structure the third part of the lesson. The first suggestion is short and continues with media literacy; the second idea is enhancing the students critical thinking and interview techniques; the third time-intensive option is a creative task where students are asked to produce their own videos.

This whole lesson plan could be adapted to be done remotely on a lengthy bus ride whilst visiting a memorial site.

LESSON PLAN

Opening

 10 min

1. Teacher introduces the lesson: “Many people create online content about the Holocaust. It is important to identify trustworthy and factually correct sources. Today, you’ll explore short videos on the SHOAH STORIES website and analyse what makes them compelling or not.”
2. Students explore SHOAH STORIES website for 5 minutes.
3. Open discussion led by the teacher: (5min)
 - 3 finger feedback on videos:
 - What did you like? (thumbs up)
 - What did you deem important? (index finger)
 - Did you dislike anything? (middle finger)
 - Answer open questions.

Main Activity

 10 min

Students explore SHOAH STORIES again for 5 minutes, but this time they are asked to specifically focus on the aspect of storytelling and narration.

Open discussion led by the teacher (5 minutes):

- Which video style worked best?
- What visuals or narrative techniques caught your attention?

Closing Option 1 – media literacy

 15 min

- Silent or group brainstorm: “What makes a good educational video on the Holocaust/WWII?” -> Collect ideas on the board.
- Options for group discussions: What makes a video trustworthy, authentic, informative, engaging?

Closing Option 2 – critical thinking and Interview

 15 min

Groups of 3–4 students create an interview plan for an eyewitness video on social media (TikTok, Instagram, YouTube):

1. Choose a witness type: victim, perpetrator, bystander
2. Draft 3 questions you would ask

Each group shares one question with the class, discussing why it matters.

Closing Option 3 – Creative Video production – Homework

Students are given the task to produce a video of their own. Either as homework in their home town or during the visit of a historical site. This requires between 30min and 3 hours of work, depending on the video. It is advised to have the students present the video ideas briefly to the teacher by having them write a script.

Groups of 3–4 design their own max. 1-minute video concept for peers:

- Decide on topic, story structure, and visual/audio style.
- Write a script and show it to the teacher.
- Film and edit the video.
- Present the video in the next lesson and reflect the process of video-making.



LINKS: SHORT FORM VIDEO

No specific Link needed. Students use the **Student Interface of SHOAH STORIES Platform**.