

LESSON PLAN

COMMEMORATING THE HOLOCAUST THROUGH MEMORIALS



English



South Africa



Memory Culture



14-18 years



120 min

LESSON PLAN

Commemorating the Holocaust through Memorials



Time

Class preparation and in-class assistance: 120 minutes, or 2 days in class

Individual work: 2-3 week (Decided by educator)

Target group

High school (Grades 9-12)

South African National Curriculum: CAPS (Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement):
Grades 9-12

Note: This will ideally fit as a Heritage Project towards the end of Term 1, after exams. Students will have already covered the bulk of the curriculum. This is an opportunity to review and create meaning and relevance for the learners using what they have learnt.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learners gain an understanding of the importance of memorialization, and why we commemorate the past.
2. Learners use research skills to uncover the history of the Holocaust and how the Holocaust has been commemorated until today.
3. Learners use creative skills to find new ways to commemorate the Holocaust.

Lesson 1: Introduction and Brainstorming

1. Introduction:

 20 min

- Short **overview** of the lesson: Holocaust commemoration and its significance
- Share **TikTok video** by The Holocaust Educational Trust (UK) entitled, “What Was the Holocaust?”: <https://vm.tiktok.com/ZMBuv4yM/>
- Show some examples of **Holocaust memorials** today (the CTHGC can provide a PowerPoint Presentation if needed – please email educator@holocaust.org.za).
- **Class discussion** on the importance of remembering the Holocaust and how it is remembered today. Write up ideas on a mindmap.

2. Project Guidelines and Expectations:

 10 min

- Discuss project requirements (e.g., length, content, hashtags).
- Establish expectations for treating research and content with respect, sensitivity, and accuracy. For example, co-create a social contract with the class as a guideline for the duration of the project)

3. Work Time (25 minutes):

 25 min

- Teacher provides resources for research, for example the Shoah Stories platform, websites, books, articles, documentaries (the CTHGC can provide list of recommended sources if needed).
- Learners have time to brainstorm ideas on their own, and immerse themselves in the topic of commemoration and memorials.
- Learners begin researching and clarifying the topic of their project.

4. Conclusion (5 minutes):

 5 min

- Check in with learners, ask about their ideas and take any questions.
- Give them an overview of what they will cover in Lesson 2.

Lesson 1: Project Work Time

1. Introduction:

 5 min

- Reminder of what was covered in the previous lesson, and what is expected in this lesson.

2. Work Time:

 50 min

- Provide learners with dedicated time to work on their TikTok projects and research.
- Circulate around the room to offer guidance, answer questions, and provide feedback.

More time might be needed outside of classroom time.

Project Timeline

Weeks 1-2: Learners research, outline, and create their TikTok videos in class.

Week 3: Learners finalize and submit their projects.

- Create a way to submit projects, e.g. a Google Drive folder.
- Adjust the time allocated to each activity as needed.
- Encourage learners to use **reputable sources only**, and to approach the topic with **respect and sensitivity**.

5. Work Time (25 minutes):

 25 min

- Teacher provides resources for research, for example the Shoah Stories platform, websites, books, articles, documentaries (the CTHGC can provide list of recommended sources if needed).
- Learners have time to brainstorm ideas on their own, and immerse themselves in the topic of commemoration and memorials.
- Learners begin researching and clarifying the topic of their project.

6. Conclusion (5 minutes):

 5 min

- Check in with learners, ask about their ideas and take any questions.
- Give them an overview of what they will cover in Lesson 2.

Project Guidelines: Commemorating the Holocaust through Memorials

1. Research element:

After World War II ended and the horrors of the Holocaust were revealed to the world, Germany and other countries in Europe were compelled to face their difficult pasts. Although it took many years, one response was to create memorials or other forms of commemoration.

Write a response of at least 300 words exploring two memorials (in Germany or anywhere in the world) dedicated to remembering to the Holocaust and its victims. Discuss whether you think these memorials are successful in their mission to commemorate. You can explore the message or signage, design, visibility, accessibility, etc. In your paragraph, include at least two in-text references. Use your own words as far as possible. Include images of the memorials you have chosen, along with their title and location. [10]

2. Next, explain your understanding of the term Commemoration. Discuss why you think it is important or relevant that we learn about and commemorate Holocaust history as South Africans today (or not). Motivate your answer. [10]

3. Create a **2-3-minute video** that commemorates an aspect of Holocaust history. Please take care to treat your topic with respect, sensitivity and authenticity. [20]

Some suggested topics include (but are not limited to):

- The deportations of the Jews of Europe to ghettos and camps by the Nazis and their collaborators.
- Spaces where ghettos were built (and later 'liquidated') by the Nazis.
- The plight of Jewish victims in the Holocaust (you could focus on a specific group, such as children, women, elderly, German Jews, those in hiding, uprisings, etc.)
- The plight of other victims (Roma and Sinti, gay men, Jehovah's Witnesses, disabled people, etc.) under the Nazi regime.
- Acts of rescue and resistance against the Nazis.

Note: You can make use of Canva, CapCut, TikTok or any other service to create this video but the videos may not be uploaded to any social media platform without written consent from parents and guardians. Please note that you are not required to show your face or do a voice over. All videos must be submitted to the educator.

Write a short paragraph outlining your concept for the video, and what is being symbolized/ referred to by each element of the video.

5. Write a brief reflection on the creative process. For example: What were the challenges you experienced in putting your video together? What insights or knowledge did you gain? How did your perceptions about this history change (or not)? How did your perceptions on commemoration change (or not)? [5]

Important note on REFERENCING:

When answering Questions 1-4 above, any thoughts, insights, viewpoints, ideas and quotations that are taken from someone else's work **MUST** be fully acknowledged **as in-text references** (at least 2).

The full details of the source must also be included in your **bibliography** at the end of your project. [5]

TikTok RESOURCES:

Some examples of Holocaust Memorials' TikTok channels that teach about Holocaust history:

November 9th (Neuengamme Memorial):

<https://www.tiktok.com/@neuengamme.memorial/video/7571198849138674966>

Deportation of the Jews of Hamburg (Neuengamme Memorial):

<https://www.tiktok.com/@neuengamme.memorial/video/7565089639971720470>

Arrival at the camps and selection process (Mauthausen Memorial):

<https://www.tiktok.com/@mauthausenmemorial/video/7485412855194324246>

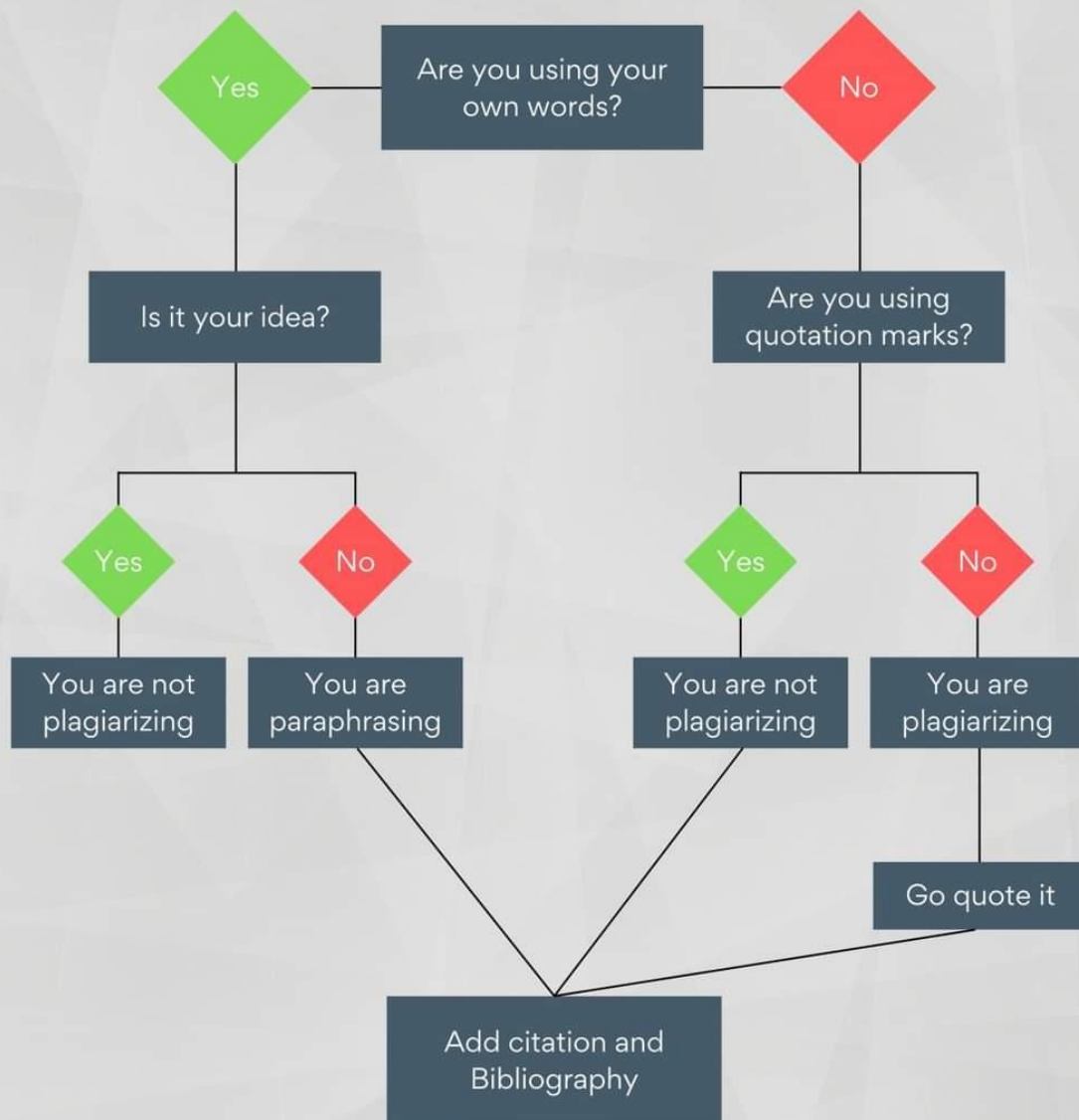
CHECKLIST

(Before handing in final project)

Have I...	Yes / No
• Included a cover page with a declaration of authenticity?	
• Answered all of the questions 1-5, in detail?	
• Reviewed the comments on my draft, and reworked the relevant sections?	
• Edited my work one final time? (Grammar and spell check)	
• And then read over it one more time?	
• Included at least two in-text references?	
• Included a bibliography?	
• Attached the rubric to the back of my project?	

How to Avoid **Plagiarism**: A simple guide

Twitter: @dr_asadnaveed



Bibliography Guidelines: Harvard Referencing Style

For a book:

Author (last name, initials). Title of book (Publishers, date of publication).

Example: Dahl, R. The BFG. (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1982).

For an encyclopaedia:

Encyclopaedia Title, Edition Date. Volume Number, 'Article Title', page numbers.

Example: Encyclopaedia Britannica. 1997. Volume 7, 'Gorillas', pp. 50-51.

For a magazine:

Author (last name first), 'Article Title'. Name of magazine. Volume number (Date): page numbers.

Example: Jordan, Jennifer, 'Filming at the Top of the World'. Museum of Science Magazine. Volume 47, No 1 (Winter 1998): p 11.

For a newspaper:

Author (last name first), 'Article Title'. Name of Newspaper. City, state publication. (Date): edition if available, section, page number(s).

Example: Powers, Ann, 'New Tune for the Material Girl'. The New York Times. New York, NY. (3/1/98): Atlantic Region, Section 2, p 34.

For an interview:

Full name (last name first). Occupation, date of interview.

Example: Smeckleburg, Sweets. Bus Driver. 1 April 1996.

For a film:

Title, Director, Distributor, Year.

Example: Braveheart, Director Mel Gibson, Icon Productions, 1995.

For an online article:

Author (last name, initials). (Year) 'Article Title', title of website/ publication. Available at: URL (Accessed: Day/Month/Year).

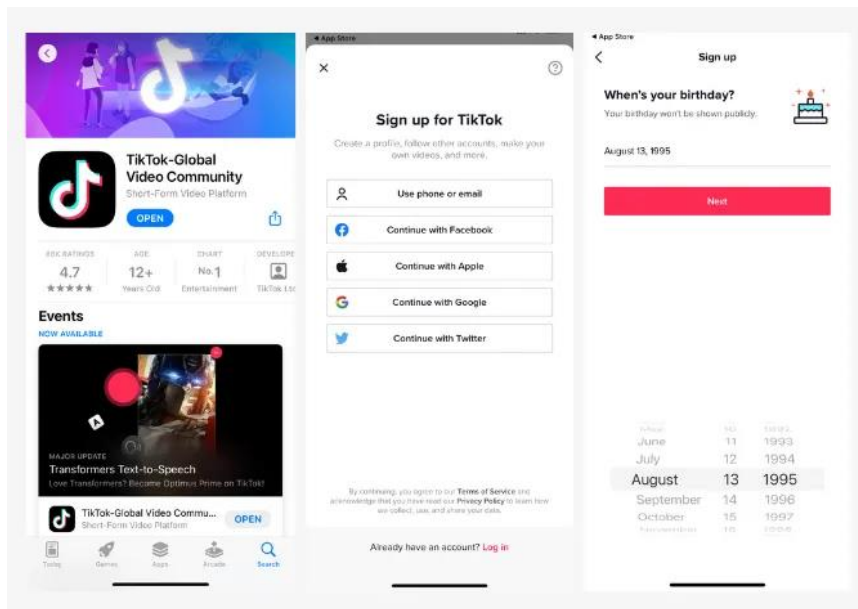
Example: Stevick, E.D. and Michaels, D.L. (2013) 'Empirical and Normative Foundations of Holocaust Education: Bringing Research and Advocacy into Dialogue', Intercultural Education. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14675986.2013.793025> (Accessed: 14 January 2026).

TIKTOK: A Users Guide

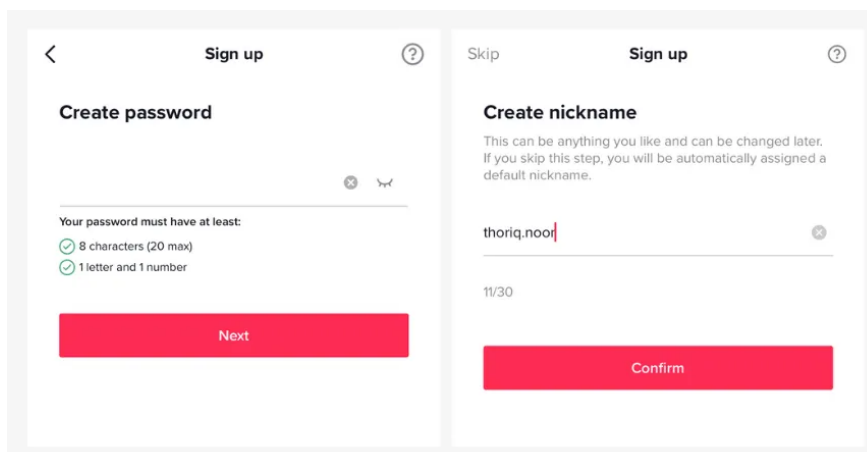
Here's a detailed guide on how to make TikTok videos:

1. Setting Up a TikTok Account

- Download TikTok from the App Store or Google Play onto your smartphone or tablet.
- Open the TikTok app and choose how to sign up.
- Enter your birthday. To ensure community safety, TikTok includes age-related restrictions on the platform, including a minimum account age requirement of 13 years old.

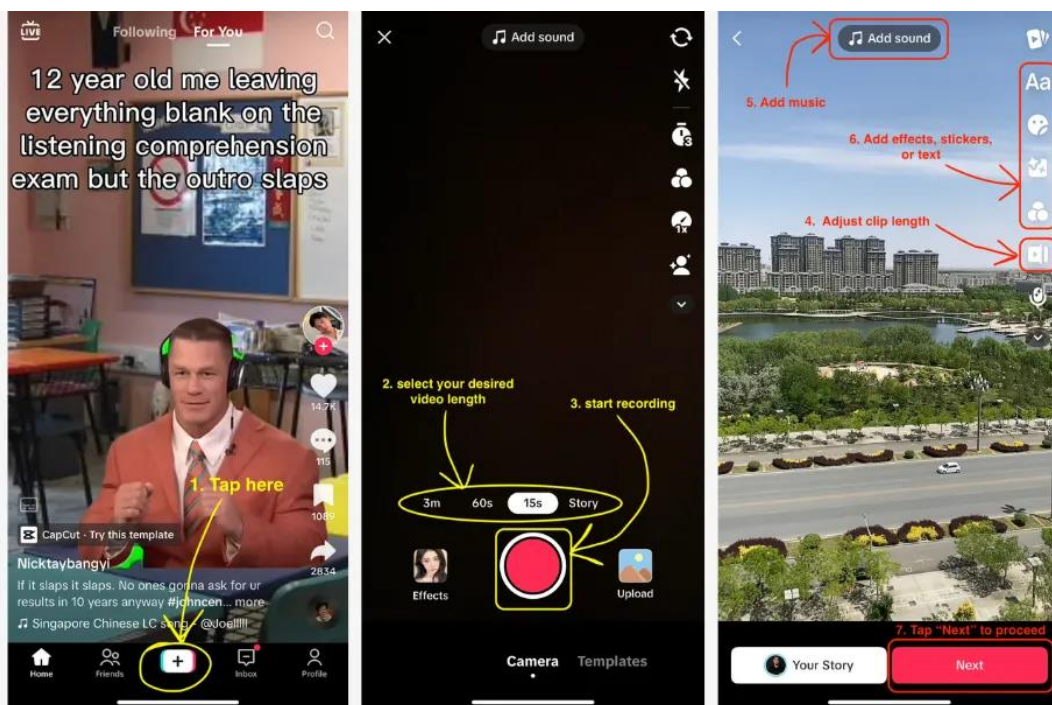


- If you create a TikTok account using your phone number or email address, you will be asked to create a password.
- Choose your username. Make sure it's simple to remember, whatever you decide. You can always change it later!

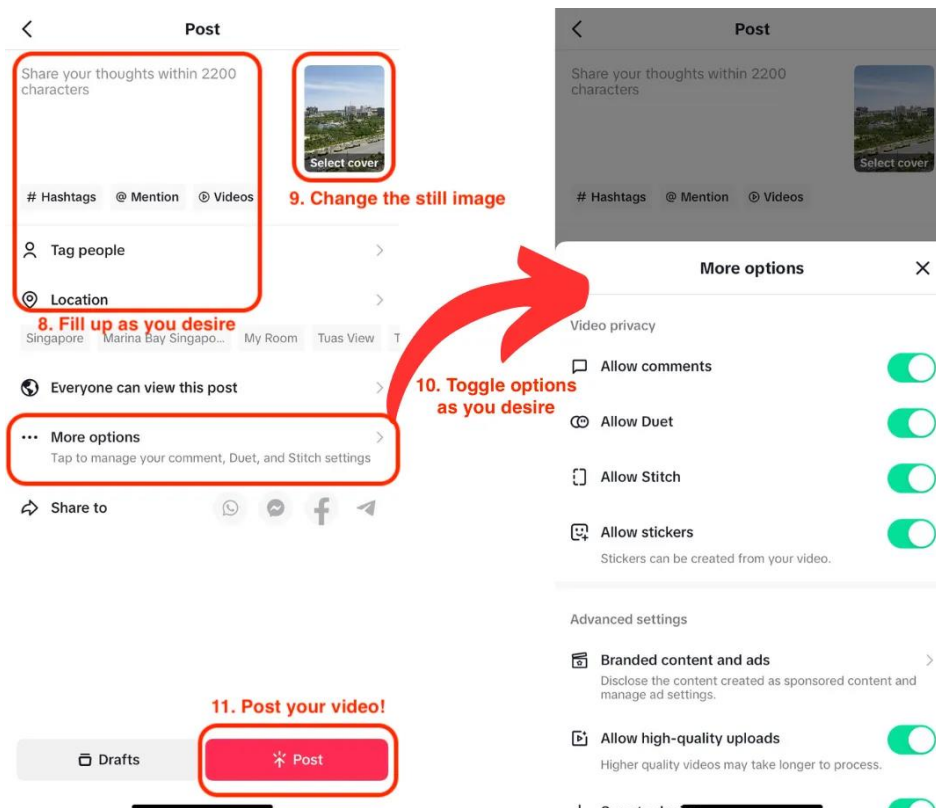


2. How To Record a Video from TikTok

- From the home screen, tap the + sign at the bottom of your screen.
- Before recording, select your desired video length – you have options for a 15-second, 60-second, or 3-minute video.
- Tap the red Record button to begin capturing your video.
- When you're done recording, select Adjust Clips from the right-hand menu to shorten your clips.
- You can add music by hitting the button at the top of the screen. You could use the search bar to look up more music or sound effects, although TikTok will suggest tracks that suit the content of your video.
- Select the option you want from the menu on the right to add effects, stickers, or text.
- Tap the red Next button at the bottom of the screen once you're done editing your video.

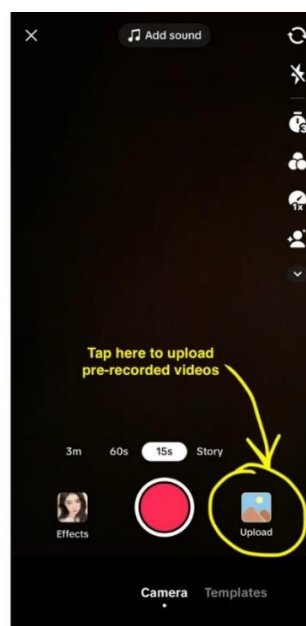


- Add captions and hashtags, tag users, and add locations as you desire.
- To change which still of your video appears in the feed, hit Select Cover.
- Toggle options like Allow Duet (which enables users to make a split-screen TikTok using your video) and Allow Stitch (which enables users to edit segments of your video into their own).



1. How To Make a TikTok from Pre-recorded Videos

- Tap the '+' icon at the bottom of your screen and select the 'Upload' option next to the record button. This will open up your camera roll, allowing you to choose the pre-recorded video you want to upload.

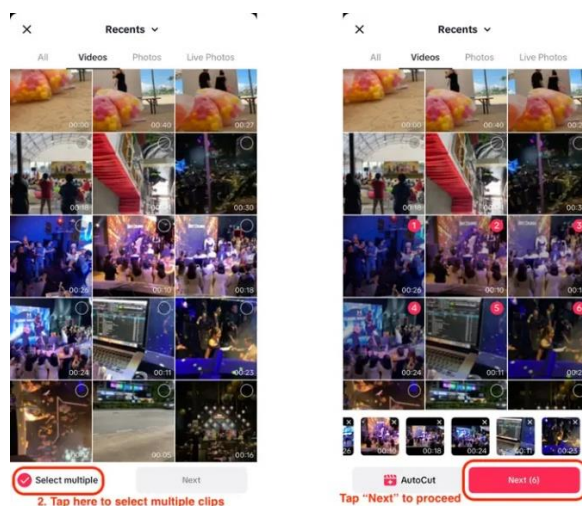


2. Choose the video you want

- After uploading the video you want to use in your TikTok, you can customize it as you did before. Use the tools on the right-hand panel to add text, stickers, voiceovers, filters, voice effects, captions, and effects to the video. You can also add a sound to the video from the TikTok audio library.
- Once you're done editing the video, tap the 'Next' button. Then add the video description and change the settings before hitting 'Post.'

How To Make a TikTok Video With Multiple Videos

- Open up your TikTok app and tap the plus symbol at the bottom of the screen to create a new video.
- Press the red button to start recording your video. Release your thumb from the red button when you want to end that particular segment. For your next segment, press the red button again and record in the same manner. Continue this process until you've captured all the clips you desire. You'll notice blue lines at the top of your screen, indicating the number of clips you have and the duration they occupy.
- Alternatively, if you prefer to shoot your videos using your phone's camera outside of the TikTok app, you can do so.
- After recording, upload the clips to TikTok by tapping the "Effects" button followed by the "Green Screen Video" option.
- Once you've recorded/selected all the clips you want, you can rearrange or trim them by tapping the red checkmark located at the bottom-right corner of your screen. Then, click the "Adjust Clips" button on the right side of your screen.
- After making your desired adjustments, press save. You can then proceed to finalize the rest of your post, adding music, effects, and other enhancements as needed.



Question	Criteria	Impressive	Functional	Limited	Poor
1	Explore two memorials dedicated to remembering to the Holocaust. Discuss whether they are successful in doing so. Paragraph includes 2 intext references.	9-10 Thorough and detailed discussion	6-8 Functional to good discussion	3-5 Limited or basic discussion	0-2 Poor, insubstantial, not provided
2	Explain your understanding of the term Commemoration. Discuss why you think it is important or relevant that we learn about and commemorate Holocaust history as South Africans today (or not). Motivate your answer.	9-10 Exceptional and well-crafted presentation of research based on thorough research	6-8 Functional to good, which is mostly clear and adequately to well-presented	3-5 Limited or basic with discussion barely clear	0-2 Poor, insubstantial or not provided
3	Create a 2-3 minute video about an aspect of Holocaust history that can serve as a memorial. Video demonstrates creative and authentic ways of commemorating Holocaust history. Paragraph motivating why you created this particular video. Research and creative symbolism explained.	11-15 Exceptional, well-crafted presentation of research based on thorough research	9-15 Functional to good, which is mostly clear and adequately to well-presented	4-8 Limited or basic offering	0-3 Poor, insubstantial or not provided
4	Write a brief reflection on the creative process. Reflection includes challenges, insights, and engagement with the chosen topic.	4-5 Most encouraging engagement with the issues	3 Functional engagement with the issues	1-2 Little engagement with the issues	0 Poor, insubstantial or not provided
5	In-text references and bibliography provided: fully detailed; comprehensive and correctly formatted	4-5 Excellent referencing (in-text and bibliography)	3 Functional (in-text and bibliography provided but incomplete)	1-2 Limited (either in-text or bibliography missing)	0 References not provided