

LESSON PLAN

HISTORY IN OUR HANDS

Create Your Own Story



English



Poland



Biographies



14-18 years



90 min

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Objectives

1. Introduce students to personal Holocaust stories through short-form video.
2. Encourage empathy by engaging with true stories of young people from Oświęcim.
3. Empower students to retell history using their own voice and creativity.
4. Foster awareness of how digital media can carry memory and meaning.

LESSON PLAN

Opening

 15 min

1. Introduction: Why Personal Stories Matter

- Briefly introduce the museum or project:
"We are here today to learn not only about history, but about people — individuals who lived, loved, and were caught in the violence of the Holocaust. This is about memory — and the power of our voices to carry it forward."

2. Watch TikToks

Play 2–3 short videos from the @oshpitzinmuseum TikTok account(depends on a group) :

- Olga Pressler
[\[https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7463013755039845654\]](https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7463013755039845654)
- Szymon Kluger
[\[https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7464499511990193430\]](https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7464499511990193430)
- Jerzy i Abraham Feiner
[\[https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7463754351769668886\]](https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7463754351769668886)
- Ignacy Lerner
[\[https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7458219710686055702\]](https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7458219710686055702)
- Leon Schonker
[\[https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7455714625410272535\]](https://www.tiktok.com/@oshpitzinmuseum/video/7455714625410272535)

3. Short Class Discussion

Ask:

- "What stood out to you?"*
 - "How did these stories make you feel?"*
 - "Can a 1-minute video really make us care about someone's life? Why or why not?"*
-

Main Activity

 15-20 min

Part 1: Brainstorm & Plan

Students choose **one person** or story from the videos.

Then they decide how to **retell that story** in their own way.

Creative format options (students choose one):

- A TikTok-style video (acting, narration, slideshow, voiceover)
- A storyboard or comic strip (if no phone access)
- A narrated photo slideshow
- A live mini-presentation using drawings, images, or objects

Prompts to guide them:

- “If this person had TikTok in 1941, what would they share?”
- “What are 3 objects that tell their story?”
- “If I could speak for them, what would I say?”

Provide a simple planning worksheet:

1. Who is the person?
2. What moment or emotion will you focus on?
3. How will you visually show that moment?
4. What line or message will end your piece?

Part 2: Create & Prepare

 30-35 min

- Students work individually or in small groups.
- They can film, draw, or storyboard depending on time and resources.
- Emphasize:
 - **Empathy** (tell the story with care)
 - **Creativity** (how can you show emotion?)
 - **Respect** (we are handling real lives)

Educator supports students with tech or brainstorm help.

Closing

 20 min

Sharing & Discussion

- Students present their creations (videos, drawings, storyboards, etc.)
- Option: set up a “gallery walk” for students to view each other’s work

Final Reflection

Ask:

- “How did it feel to tell someone else’s story?”
- “What responsibility do we have when sharing memory?”
- “How can social media be used to preserve the past?”

End with:

“You just gave voice to someone history tried to silence. You helped memory survive.”