

Eyebright

Unit Five - Polarisation

This is the fifth unit in a series of eight, created for HMD 2010, in partnership with the art and poetry group arthur+martha. You should download and read the project guidelines (http://education.hmd.org.uk/assets/downloads/guidance_notes.pdf) before working through the unit. The work is based on the stages of genocide (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/genocides>) as defined by Gregory Stanton. The fifth stage is Polarisation and you need to **make sure** your students understand what happens in this stage. Discuss the summary below, as an introduction to the unit. You should not attempt to work through the exercises before you have done this.

Summary and discussion

Extremists and hate groups work to divide people; they use the language of hatred on the radio, TV and the internet. Laws are made to prevent marriage or interaction between different groups. It becomes a crime to have a friend who belongs to the other group. Wedges are deliberately driven between people. People who protest against this situation also become targets. Human Rights Groups and moderate leaders need protection if they are to prevent genocide. Ben Helfgott's father could no longer conduct business transactions and eventually the whole family were forced to move out of the community and move into a ghetto, separated from the rest of society (<http://education.hmd.org.uk/case-studies/ben-helfgott/read>).

Consider the art of turning people against each other and then **invert it** by **asking** which people students would miss. What keeps them separated? Is it distance between houses, work hours, going to different schools? Why would they like to see more of that person? **Discuss** what it is like to be bullied or excluded from a group.

Writing exercise

Write a love letter that you would like to receive or one to a person that you admire. **Tell** the person what is special about them, but leave out any names or places which would identify them or you. Then use a triangle template 12 cm by 12 cm by 12 cm, put the template over part of your writing which you like, draw round it and cut out the shape. Then add a safety pin and make a badge.

Finally - tell everyone that by inverting the message of the Nazis and thinking about people in positive ways they have joined **The Legacy of Hope**.