

Eyebright

Unit Four - Organisation

This is the fourth 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 fourth stage is Organisation and you need to **ensure** 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

Genocide does not just happen – it is always organised. This is usually done by the state, as in Cambodia (<http://education.hmd.org.uk/case-studies/denise-affonco/read>). The state often uses independent groups or militias rather than the regular army, to carry out murders and to protect the rulers of the state from blame. You can find out more about the organisation of genocide on the HMD website (<http://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/podcasts/dr-james-smith-what-is-genocide>). Genocide is planned and those who murder have often been trained to do just that. The evidence left by those who compiled the Secret Archive of Oneg Shabbat (<http://education.hmd.org.uk/case-studies/the-secret-archive/read>) shows how the Nazis made plans to exterminate Jewish people.

Discuss the positives and negatives of organisation - when is it useful and how it can become misused? When does discipline become control? **Discuss** creative thinking, finding unusual solutions – when is looser, lateral thinking useful?

Introduce the idea of shaped poems, where the meaning of the words is explained by the shape of the poem. For instance, a one-word Ian Hamilton Finlay poem shows the letters 'acrobat' jumping acrobatically around the page.

Writing exercise

1. Write a pyramid of things-to-do that keep you alive and happy, start with the basics (breathing, heartbeat, blood moving, etc) and progress to the more elusive (happiness, friendship, touch, optimism...)

2. Using a triangle template, 12cm by 12cm by 12cm, select an area of your writing you find most interesting, put the triangle over it and draw around it. Cut out the triangle and attach your safety pin to make a badge.

Finally - tell everyone that by making a positive and optimistic badge they have challenged and reversed the Nazi message of hatred and instead have joined **The Legacy of Hope** for HMD 2010.