

Survivor Biography Project

Making a connection to an individual story is one of the best ways to engage in the study of history. The following project will help you to learn how to do research while forming a relationship to the person you are studying. In this exercise you will need to use primary, secondary, and tertiary sources.

- Primary sources provide direct or firsthand evidence about an event, object, person, or work of art.
- Secondary sources describe, discuss, interpret, comment upon, analyze, evaluate, summarize, and process primary sources.
- Tertiary sources contain information that has been compiled from primary and secondary sources, such as encyclopedias, bibliographies, indexes, dictionaries.

Websites to help with assignment:

- [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) (USHMM)
- [Yad Vashem](#)
- [USC Shoah Foundation](#)
- [Virtual Shtetl](#)
- [JewishGen KehilaLinks](#) (These links are created and maintained by individuals. They are not historians)
- Cincinnati Enquire Archives or other Newspaper Sites
- [Arolsen Archives](#)

Please answer the following questions about your survivor using the outline below. Some of the information will be in the biography provided, while others will require further research (some things you will not find). If you cannot find additional information on the town, try to research larger communities nearby.

Part 1: Pre-War Life

1. Name of survivor, date of birth, city or town, and country
Family information: parents and sibling names, professions, religious affiliations (were they observant?)
2. Was he or she in any schools, clubs, etc?
3. What was life like for the Jewish community: how long had it been there/synagogues/how did they get along with their neighbors.

Part 2: World War II German Occupation

1. When does the German army occupy their town and what steps were taken by the military upon arrival?
2. What happens to the community?
3. What happens to your survivor and his or her family?
4. Was he or she in a ghetto? If so, which ones and what was it like there?
5. Was he or she in camps? If so, which ones and what was it like there?

6. Was he or she in hiding? If so, where? Did someone help hide him/her? Was he or she on their own? What was life like for them?
7. Was he or she a member of a partisan or resistance group?
8. Other experiences including: escape, were they able to flee, what did they have to do to get out?

Part 3: Immediate Aftermath

1. What was his or her experience after liberation? Was he or she hospitalized, in a displaced persons camp, etc.?
2. What happened to the rest of the individual's family (parents, siblings, etc.)?
3. Where did he or she eventually settle and when? Was there a reason he or she went to that location? Do you know what the process was like for them to resettle?
4. Map the journey of your survivor, where did they begin, what were the places in between and where did they finally settle?

Part 4: Post-War Life

1. What did they do once they settled in Cincinnati or other locations? What did they do for employment? Were they helped by any organizations? Did they have families?
2. Please include any other information you think important to explain or tell his or her story.

Research Presentation:

After you have gathered your research, decide how you would like to showcase and present your research. Some presentation options could include:

- Visually represent the survivor's story as a graphic novel
- Write a piece of spoken word poetry
- Create a digital presentation using Prezi or Google Slides
- Create an annotated timeline with explanations for each event and embedded photos (when possible)