

Northwest History Consortium

Celebration? Or Sacrilege?

Marta Ferguson
12th Grade

National Standard

Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968 to the present) / Standard 2

Standard 2: Economic, social, and cultural developments in contemporary United States

BACKGROUND

Holocaust survivor Adolek Kohn danced at the gates of Auschwitz with his grandchildren to a song called "I Will Survive." It was placed on YouTube, and the offensive feelings came to the forefront.

PROBLEM

Is the videoed celebration "tasteless," almost sacrilege, or is it a way for a group of people to work through their past?

SCENARIO

Sixty-five years after WWII a playful approach to a Holocaust memory is always bound to offend someone, and it's really only acceptable coming from survivors or other Jews intending no offense.

TASK

In your town 25% of the citizens are, or had family members that are, holocaust survivors or losses.

You are a reporter for the local newspaper. You feel that this video is a form of celebration. You have to research the feelings of the survivors, historians, cultures affected, and citizens to explain your view to the editor, so that you may write an article that portrays this video as a celebration.

Another reporter is the local historian who feels that this video represents "sacrilege" to the memory of the people who did not survive and those who did survive. You have to research the feelings of the survivors, historians, cultures affected, and citizens to explain your view to the editor, so that you may write an article that portrays this video as a "sacrilege."

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RESOURCES

Internet

Abu-Nasr, Donna. "Birthday Parties - Sacrilege in Saudi Arabia?" 5 September 2009 from *San Francisco Chronicle*. [SFGate.com](http://www.sfgate.com). ©2011 Hearst Communications, Inc. San Francisco, CA. 25 March 2011 <http://articles.sfgate.com/2008-09-05/news/17158250_1_saudi-clerics-saudi-arabia-birthdays>.

Avery, Susan. "Holocaust Survivor and Family Do the Dance of Life at Auschwitz." 18 July 2010. [ParentDish.com](http://www.parentdish.com) (AOL). ©2011 AOL Inc. New York, NY. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.parentdish.com/2010/07/18/holocaust-survivor-dances-with-family-at-auschwitz/>>.

"Chanukah - Before, During, and After the Holocaust." [YadVashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org). ©2011 Yad Vashem (The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority). Jerusalem, Israel. 25 March 2011 <http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/our_collections/chanukah/index.asp>.

Conant, Eve. "Right Wing: Mosque at Ground Zero is a 'Slap in the Face.'" 10 May 2010 from *Newsweek*. [Newsweek.com](http://www.newsweek.com). ©2010 Harman Newsweek LLC. New York, NY. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.newsweek.com/blogs/the-gaggle/2010/05/10/right-wing-mosque-at-ground-zero-is-a-quot-slap-in-the-face-quot.html>>.

"Holocaust Remembrance Day." [365celebrations.com](http://www.365celebrations.com). ©2010 - 2011. [location unknown]. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.365celebration.com/holocaust-remembrance-day/#>>.

"Holocaust Survivor Defends Auschwitz Dance Video." 16 July 2010. Submitted by tricky_rabbit 17 July 2010. [Newser.com](http://www.newser.com). ©2011 Newser, LLC. Chicago, IL. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.newser.com/story/95761/holocaust-survivor-defends-auschwitz-dance-video.html>>.

"Museum Info." [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.ushmm.org) (ushmm.org). 2011. Washington, DC. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.ushmm.org/museum/>>.

Periodicals

[Author unknown]. "Celebration? Or Sacrilege?" [Great Falls Tribune](http://www.greatfalls.com) 18 July 2010.

Mendelsohn, Daniel. "When Jews Attack." [Newsweek](http://www.newsweek.com) 24 - 31 August 2009: 17:24.

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ASSESSMENT

Using Microsoft WORD, title your newspaper; write your article in newspaper columns with a byline at the top; cite references in your article; and including pictures is optional. You must make sure that if not in the public domain that you cite references.

_____ 5 pts. Format of Article

_____ 10 pts. Content (solid and flows with a clear concise statement)

_____ 5 pts. Spelling and Grammar (for every 3 mistakes -1 pt.)

_____ /20 pts. Total

NOTE: Seniors would look at the YouTube concepts of privacy and bring in public domain, Bill of Rights, etc.; more expansion than Juniors.

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

Ferguson, Marta. "Celebration? Or Sacrilege?" NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 25 March 2011 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/10.2_Holocaust.Ferguson.12.pdf>.

"History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States." UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 25 March 2011 <<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/nchs/standards/us-standards5-12.html>>.