

Teaching Guide for *First Person: Conversations with a Survivor*

GRADE LEVEL: Adaptable for grades 7–12

SUBJECT: Multidisciplinary

TIME REQUIRED: Watch the *First Person* series on YouTube Live once a month at 1:00 p.m. ET.

Recordings of the conversations available on demand after broadcast.

OVERVIEW

Join Holocaust survivors for live *First Person* conversations as they share their experiences in their own words. With over 20 seasons, this signature program features an hour-long discussion with a survivor and journalist Bill Benson. This Teaching Guide and Student Interactive provides guidance to integrate the *First Person* conversations into your classroom.

By viewing *First Person* testimony students are exposed to the diversity of experiences of Holocaust survivors.

First Person: Conversations with a Survivor Information and Schedule

- Program airs Wednesdays at 1 pm ET on USHMM YouTube Channel.
- Information about upcoming programs can be found [here](#).

PRIOR TO THE PROGRAM

1. Share with students the [definition of the Holocaust](#).
2. Students then read the biography of the featured survivor. On the [student interactive](#), students answer the following:

ASK THE STUDENTS

- What was life like **before** the Holocaust for the featured survivor?
- What are three characteristics of their experience **during** the Holocaust?
- How did they survive?
- What was life like for them **after** the war ended?
- What questions do you still have about the survivor's experience?

DURING THE PROGRAM

3. Using the student interactive, students fill in details of the survivor's story **before**, **during**, and **after** the Holocaust.

Teaching Guide for *First Person: Conversations with a Survivor*

AFTER THE PROGRAM

3. As a class, discuss the student interactive:

- What are the particular characteristics of the survivor's experience before, during, and after the Holocaust? How did hearing the story in the survivor's words add to your understanding of their particular experience?
- What were the survivor's final words for us today?
- How does hearing from a survivor add to your understanding of how and why the Holocaust happened?

Students can explore the collections of the survivor to find primary sources to link to the survivor's experience before, during, and after the Holocaust.

ASSESSMENT/EXTENSIONS

- Students can create personal story cards for the survivor using information from the student interactive and primary sources from collections to add to the USHMM [Timeline Activity](#). **More educational resources can be found on the Museum's website [here](#).**
- Students can view additional *First Person* programs and create a timeline showing similarities and differences in individual experiences.