

US Holocaust Memorial Museum to Students: "Help Us with Research!"

[*History Unfolded*](#), a new project at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, is asking "citizen historians" – teachers, students, lifelong learners and others – to help research the way the Holocaust was reported in local US newspapers from 1933 to 1945.

Teachers: have your students participate in [the project](#). You can start now. It's easy to start and it's free. Start [here](#).

[*History Unfolded*](#), which launched in February, runs through the 2017-2018 school year.

While historians have examined the US media's reporting on the Holocaust, much of this work was done before the Internet and crowd-sourcing opened up new possibilities for a wider scope of investigation.

"Nobody has done this research before," according to Elissa Frankle, the museum's digital projects coordinator. "We don't know what the average American citizen would have been reading in the 30's and 40's. The museum doesn't have the resources to scour newspapers all across America so we are asking for help."

Students who participate in the project will:

- Investigate original articles from local newspapers in the 1930's and 40's by going to databases, examining microfilm, and even – in some cases - handling the original papers. Some of these sources are available online. Others are in local libraries. [The History Unfolded site](#) includes information about how and where to find primary sources.
- Submit their findings to the museum's database for examination by scholars and the public. Research from the project will be considered for inclusion in the museum's upcoming special exhibit about the United States and the Holocaust.

Though the project has just begun, teachers report that initial findings of their students have been surprising in many cases and have served as a good jumping-off point for classroom discussions.

Some classes have been stunned to find that a German POW camp operated a few miles from their school. Others have discovered a robust local debate occurred at the time about the appropriate US response to the crisis. Still others found misleading headlines minimizing the threat Jews faced.

A detailed lesson plan and supporting materials for 9th-12th grade teachers are available.

Learn more and participate at ushmm.org/history-unfolded.

For more information please contact David Klevan at dklevan@ushmm.org.

To learn more about the US Holocaust Memorial Museum go to www.USHMM.org