

## Center Directions

In this activity, you will be reviewing the Holocaust survivor testimony of Dr. Hans Fischer. Dr. Fischer completed his testimony with the USC Shoah Foundation on October 25, 1995. Watch this [short video](#) about the USC Shoah Foundation to learn more about their mission before completing this task.

Read this short [biographical summary](#) of Dr. Hans Fischer's experiences before, during and after the war.

Use the link to view the 15 minute selection of Dr. Fischer's testimony.

- Take notes as you watch for important moments, people, dates, objects and locations that he touches on during his testimony.
- Think about why he might have chosen to sit and record his testimony.
- Reflect on how these experiences might have impacted his sense of identity

## What They Carried- A Symbolic Reflection Assignment

In the testimony you watched, the survivor shared pieces of their life, some spoken and some unspoken. Imagine if you could pack a symbolic backpack or memory suitcase that held the most important things this person carried through their experience. These could be physical objects, memories, fears, hopes, dreams, or values. Your task is to create a visual representation of "what they carried" and write a brief explanation of what each item represents.

**Part one:** Create a digital representation of the things they carried. For example: if they carried "trauma," what does that look like? How might it show up for them? If they carried dreams of going to college, what visual representation can you use to show that? Create a slides powerpoint with your group and together come up with five images that represent what Dr. Hans Fischer might have carried with him during his journey.

**Part two:** Write a reflection for each item that you chose to symbolize. Why are these items important to this survivor's story? How do they represent his experience? Why does the picture or symbol represent the feeling or word rather than a physical object?

**Some guiding questions to help start your reflections:**

- What did the survivor take with them when they were forced to leave?
- What memories seemed to stay with them?
- Did they talk about any family members, special objects, or ideas they held onto?
- What emotions or values helped them survive?

**Examples of Symbols you might come across:**

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
A photograph	Memory of family left behind
A Star of David	Jewish identity and faith
A train ticket	Forced journey into the unknown
A flower	Beauty or hope in dark times
A crack in glass	Shattered innocence (Kristallnacht)
A hand	The touch of a parent or loved one
A diary	Voice, truth, or self-expression
A locked door	Isolation or being hidden