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English 12 4th hr.

During the twelve years the Holocaust was one leading cause in death during World War II. Having high intentions about this project, I was interested in learning more about the Holocaust and what went on in the camps. Having not enjoyed history class in the past I did not know much about the Holocaust and taking on this topic helped me understand more on what people went through before I was born. I knew about the concentration camps, but did not exactly know what they did to the people while they were in the camps.

We got the category “Death in the Holocaust”. My partner and I were going to make a three dimensional project on the “death marches,” we realized that we did not know what we could construct with that topic. We discussed ideas for a while then we came up with the idea that we would make a remake model of a crematorium building.

We started our research, looking up information on the crematorium buildings. We saw pictures and also looked up pictures to see what the inside of the crematorium building looked like. We wanted to know how many people they burned in a 24 hour period, how long it took them to clean out one furnace, how many bodies they could fit into one furnace at a time, how many people fit into one gas chamber at a time, and what type of people did they put into the gas chambers and furnaces.

They burned 12,000 bodies within a 24 hour period. They could burn three to four people in a furnace at a time, this burning would last about a half in hour. They could fit a maximum of 10,000 people in a gas chamber at one time. It took them about

an hour to clean out the furnaces. They put anyone who died in the concentration camps into the furnaces, also mothers, babies, sick, and the elders into the gas chambers and into the furnaces that were not able to work.

We debated on what materials to use on our project. We found that cedar wood, plywood, paint, wood glue, nails, food coloring, wire, hot glue, popsicle sticks, foam board, and shish kabob sticks worked the best for this project because these materials were easy to obtain and use. We began with putting together the frame of the building by nailing the walls together, then we turned the building upside down and nailed the platform to the bottom of the building. I then painted the building inside and out with gray paint to make it look like a concrete building, I then nailed and painted the inside wall eight inches from one end to display the separation of the gas chamber and the furnaces. We then glued six furnaces together and then painted them a dark brown to resemble brick, we glued on wire to make it look like the furnaces doors, then painted the doors black. We took popsicle sticks and shish kabob sticks to make a “railroad track” inside the building where they would haul the dead bodies from the gas chamber to the furnaces to be burned. We took black paint to make the windows and doors on the inside and outside of the crematorium. We took blue food coloring to show the deadly gas that they used to kill the people, this gas would leave a blue dye on the walls and on the floor. For the roof we took a foam board and cut it in half and painted it black. We are going to take ashes from wood and spread them on the floor of the crematorium to resemble the ashes of the bodies that had been burned.

Some extra things that you may not be able to understand while looking at this project is the windows. The crematorium buildings had windows but you could not see in

or out of them. They were only there for looks to make people think they would be able to see outside. The only part of the building that you were able to see inside and out was the gas chamber. They had a small hole in the door so the guards could check on the people they were killing. There was also one window in the gas chamber to make the people think they were “just getting a shower” to get clean, but really they would open a small hole from the roof and drop in the gas.

I learned that the Holocaust was a depressing situation. Many people lost their lives due to someone’s wrong choice and different beliefs. I have realized that the Holocaust was a depressing time in history. Many innocent people people lost their life for no reason. People did not have a choice to go to concentration camps, they got selected and brought on a train and then got the choice to stay with their children or go to the camp where they would be worked to death.

In “Night” by Elie Wiesel, at the beginning of the the story Elie and his father get separated from his mother and sister. Elie and his father go to work at the camp, while his mother and sister are taken to a crematorium building. When Elie first got to the concentration camps he did not exactly know what happened to people. He did not know that his mother and sister where going to die. Elie and his father got very little food while they were in the camp. They had to stay as strong as they possibly could to survive. Anyone who showed weakness or got sick they would be sent to the gas chamber to be poisoned with a deadly gas then burned in the furnaces.

The Holocaust made a lot of families suffer a hard time. Many families got split and never saw each other again. The concentration camps and the crematorium buildings took many lives of innocent people who should have been able to spend time with their

family instead of suffering. This all happened because of someone's wrong choice and hurting millions of peoples lives. Taking someone's life is not how someone should be thinking to do, everyone deserves to be alive. No one should have to be crammed into a small building where they drop a poisonous gas through a small hole and kill thousands at a time, then hauled to furnaces to burn the bodies.

#### Works Cited

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