

# Innocence in an age of Infamy

## Lesson 10: What Have We Learned?

Grades 7-12

### Objectives:

- Students will synthesize what they have learned during the “**Innocence in an Age of Infamy**” unit and draw personal conclusions about what they consider the most important ideas they have developed from this unit of study.

### Materials:

- “**Innocence in an Age of Infamy**” video: end of “Armin Lehmann” excerpt
- “**Remembrance**” video: recorded at the end of “Innocence in an Age of Infamy” videotape

### Procedure for Classroom Activity:

1. Begin the lesson by writing the question “Does History Repeat Itself?” on the chalkboard. Ask students to explain what this familiar phrase means to them, and how they would answer the question and why.
2. Explain that the “**Innocence in an Age of Infamy**” video and accompanying lessons were developed in order to help students learn about the different experiences of young people who lived through a momentous period in history. World War II has had huge personal, cultural, economic, and political repercussions that are with us even today, but the questions still remain:
  - What have we learned from this experience?
  - Will history repeat itself?
3. Explain that as our culminating lesson, students will be asked to write a personal concluding paragraph about what the most important idea is that they have gained from this study.
4. Show the end of the “Armin Lehmann” excerpt.

5. Provide quiet time after viewing this segment for students to reflect on the video and write their paragraphs.

### **Assessment Suggestions:**

1. If you wish, add a peer-review session and follow the steps in a multi-step writing process (for example, identify audience and purpose, generate ideas, plan, draft, confer with others, revise, and publish) to assist students in developing their conclusions.
2. Honor the students' personal insights by sharing their conclusions orally, on a bulletin board, with another class, with a parent group, or via postings on the World Wide Web. If possible, send us samples of their ideas.

### **Extension Ideas:**

1. Invite speakers from Holocaust Resource Centers, Nikkei Legacy Centers, Jewish Museums, and other organizations related to these topics to discuss the conclusions that the students developed. (In Oregon, see Holocaust Resource Center located at Pacific University, (503) 359-2930, <http://nellie.pacificu.edu/ohrc>, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 N.W. Second Ave., Portland, (503) 977-7781, the Oregon Jewish Museum, 310 N.W. Davis St., Portland (503) 226-3600, and the Japanese-American Historical Plaza, Bill of Rights Memorial, NW Couch and Front Avenue, Portland.)
2. Ask students to conduct Oral History Interviews with their grandparents and neighbors to learn about their experiences, memories, and insights from World War II. Transcribe these interviews, add scanned photographs and any available letters or primary documents, and produce audio or videotapes to record this important personal history.
3. As a culminating experience in the **“Innocence in an Age of Infamy”** unit, show the **“Remembrance”** video. Ask students to write a poem or song to express their thoughts about the impact of “Remembrance.” Share or post online for others to read.