

Performance Task: Digital Witness Exhibit

Description:

Every photograph holds a story. Some of those stories have been overlooked, minimized, or forgotten, but they still matter. What does it mean to tell one of those stories with care and accuracy? In this project, you will find out.

Drawing on *Seen and Unseen* and the survivor stories you have studied, you will create a Digital Witness Exhibit that responsibly tells an often overlooked story from the Japanese American incarceration experience. Choose 2–3 photographs or illustrations from the text or a teacher-approved resource and pair them with a quotation, letter excerpt, or oral-history testimony that helps reveal the story behind the images. You may use sources from class or find testimony from outside sources with teacher approval. Then, you will conduct a brief research step to find one additional credible source that corroborates or challenges what your images show.

Your exhibit will include written captions for each image and a narration script that introduces your story, explains how your words and images work together, reveals the truths they uncover, and closes with a reflection on why this story matters today. You may present your exhibit as a traditional live presentation, a digital display or as a podcast segment with accompanying visuals. All possible formats require captions, images, and a full narration script.

Why This Task Matters:

History is not only made up of official records and dates; it is also carried in photographs, letters, and the voices of people the world sometimes chose to ignore. When you find those stories and share them with honesty and care, you are practicing ethical storytelling: telling someone else's story with accuracy, respect, and an understanding of what it cost the people who lived it. That is why this exhibit matters: not just as a school project, but as an act of remembrance.

Criteria for Success:

- The exhibit presents a clear historical context and centers the experience of the people in the story.
- Captions accurately describe and interpret each image.

- The narration script explains how the images and testimony work together, what truths they reveal, and why the story matters today.
- One credible research source is accurately used to corroborate or challenge what the images show.
- The storytelling is ethical: it honors survivor voices, represents perspectives accurately, and avoids reducing people to symbols or statistics.
- The exhibit is effectively multimodal: visuals, captions, and narration work together as a cohesive whole.
- Active participation in peer feedback demonstrates attentive listening and thoughtful, respectful responses.

Performance Task Rubric: Digital Witness Exhibit

Use this rubric to check your work before you submit. Ask yourself: does my Digital Witness Exhibit meet the Proficient description in every row?

Criteria	1 — Beginning	2 — Developing	3 — Proficient
Narration Script & Captions <i>W.7.2 a–f, W.7.4</i>	<p>The narration script is missing, unclear, or does not explain how the images and testimony work together. Captions are missing or do not describe the images. There is no clear introduction or conclusion.</p>	<p>The narration script addresses some required elements but may be incomplete or unevenly developed. Captions are present but may be vague or descriptive only. The introduction or conclusion is weak or underdeveloped.</p>	<p>The narration script clearly explains how the images and testimony work together, what truths they reveal, and why the story matters today. Captions accurately describe and interpret each image. The script has a clear introduction and conclusion.</p>
Evidence & Analysis <i>W.7.9</i>	<p>Does not include relevant evidence from <i>Seen and Unseen</i> or survivor testimony, or the evidence is not connected to the images. Analysis is missing.</p>	<p>Includes some evidence from <i>Seen and Unseen</i> or survivor testimony, but connections to the images may be unclear or underdeveloped. Analysis is present but does not fully explain what the evidence reveals.</p>	<p>Includes relevant, accurate evidence from <i>Seen and Unseen</i> and/or survivor testimony and clearly connects it to the images. Analysis explains what the evidence reveals about the hidden or overlooked story.</p>
Research & Source Integration <i>W.7.7, W.7.8</i>	<p>Does not include a research source, or the source is not credible. The source is not connected to the images or story.</p>	<p>Includes a research source but may not clearly evaluate its credibility. The source is referenced but not meaningfully integrated into the exhibit or narration.</p>	<p>Includes one credible research source that corroborates or challenges what the images show. The source is accurately and meaningfully integrated into the narration and connected to the story being told.</p>
Multimodal Design <i>W.7.4</i>	<p>Visuals, captions, and narration are disconnected or do not work together. The exhibit does not function as a cohesive whole.</p>	<p>Visuals, captions, and narration are present but may not work together consistently. Some connections between elements are unclear or underdeveloped.</p>	<p>Visuals, captions, and narration work together as a cohesive whole. Each element strengthens the others, and the exhibit effectively communicates</p>

			the story through multiple modes.
Language, Style & Ethical Storytelling <i>W.7.2d</i>	<p>Language is informal or inappropriate. The storytelling does not demonstrate awareness of the people behind the story. Survivor voices are misrepresented, reduced, or ignored.</p>	<p>Tone is mostly appropriate and some care is taken with how people are represented, but the writing may lack precision or consistency. Ethical awareness is present but uneven.</p>	<p>Tone and style are appropriate for the subject matter. Vocabulary is precise. The storytelling honors survivor voices, represents perspectives accurately, and treats the people in the story with dignity (avoiding reducing them to symbols or statistics).</p>
Conventions <i>L.7.1, L.7.2</i>	<p>Contains frequent errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that interfere with understanding.</p>	<p>Contains some errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation that occasionally interfere with clarity. Most conventions are correct.</p>	<p>Demonstrates command of standard English conventions. Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are correct throughout.</p>
Peer Feedback & Discussion <i>W.7.10</i>	<p>Does not participate meaningfully in peer feedback, or participation is off-topic, unclear, or disrespectful.</p>	<p>Participates in peer feedback with some relevant contributions, but may not listen attentively or respond thoughtfully to peers.</p>	<p>Actively participates in peer feedback with clear, thoughtful responses. Engages attentively with peers' work and offers specific, respectful feedback on evidence, source integration, and storytelling.</p>