

## PRE-WORLD WAR II EUROPEAN JEWISH LIFE PHOTO PROJECT

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR STUDENTS

In order to better understand what Jewish cultural and communal life was like in Europe before World War II, you will be finding photographs from that time period and analyzing them, as well as researching the town(s) where the photos were taken. Follow the assignments below in order, working at your own pace. All work is due on Wednesday.

#### ASSIGNMENT #1, Photo Collection

Research and print two photos that reflect Jewish life prior to the Nazi invasion of that country using the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Web site, [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org) (go to education/students/collections and archives/photographs); search the collection of thousands of photos using key words (check the list brainstormed in class). Once you have found a photo you would like to use, right click on it, copy it, and paste it into a new word document. Then return to the photo on the Web site, and copy and paste the date and locale to the word document with the photo (do NOT include any other information, including the captions). Print it.

Guidelines for choosing photos:

- People must be in the photo.
- The photo cannot be what's classified as a portrait.
- The photo must include the date and place that the photo was taken.

#### ASSIGNMENT #2, Photo Analysis

Write captions for both photos using the worksheets given.

#### ASSIGNMENT #3, Photo Parallel (for homework)

Find a family photo at home that relates in some way to one of those you researched to bring to class. Now write an organized, well-thought-out and complete response to the following questions concerning the photos:

- In examining your researched photos, what evidence suggests that life was normal for Jews before the Nazis?
- What did you find as you looked through your own family's photos in relation to those that you had researched? Which one did you choose to share that relates and why?

- In comparing the photos, how do they show the similarities between you, your family, or your community and those in the researched photos?
- What do these photos, yours and the researched ones, tell you about Jewish life in Europe before World War II?

#### **ASSIGNMENT #4, Photo Research**

Research the town/city that is the setting of your photo and determine the following:

- How large was the town's/city's Jewish population and how long had Jews been living there?
- What was Jewish life/culture in the town/city like prior to the Nazi invasion?
- Where is or was that town/city located?
- When and how did the town/city come under Nazi rule (timeline)?
- What was the fate of this particular town's/city's Jews during the Holocaust?

ARTHUR AND ROCHELLE BELFER

**Exemplary**  
**LESSONS**  
i n i t i a t i v e

**PRE-WORLD WAR II  
EUROPEAN JEWISH LIFE  
PHOTO PROJECT**

**PHOTO ANALYSIS**

**I. SUBJECT OF THE PHOTOGRAPH**

Are there people in the photograph? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated ages: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of men or boys: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of women or girls: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe clothing: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe facial expressions: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe what the people are doing: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there objects in the photograph? \_\_\_\_\_

List the objects in the photograph: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe in detail the objects in the photograph: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## II. SETTING OF THE PHOTOGRAPH

Can you tell when or where the photograph was taken? \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated time of day: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated time of year: \_\_\_\_\_

Outside or indoors: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe as many details as you can identify about the place where the picture was taken (example:

in a yard, on a street, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

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## III. WRITING A CAPTION

A caption is a short description or explanation of a photograph or picture. It often includes information about what is happening in the picture, where and when the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Using the information you have gathered above, write a caption for your photo: \_\_\_\_\_

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From USHMM Teacher Guide for *Daniel's Story*, "How To Read a Photograph", page 5