

# Letter Template

Please download this letter as a google doc to allow you to edit.

## Purpose:

This letter template facilitates communication between educators and parents regarding sensitive topics taught in the classroom, such as the Holocaust.

Educators should personalize the template by filling in the specific details about the speaker and their story, as well as any unique experiences from the lesson that resonated with the students. The letter informs parents about the educational content and encourages ongoing discussions at home by including relevant resources, such as the video link and thought-provoking questions. Educators can use this template to promote a collaborative learning environment beyond the classroom, fostering meaningful dialogue about historical events and their relevance today.

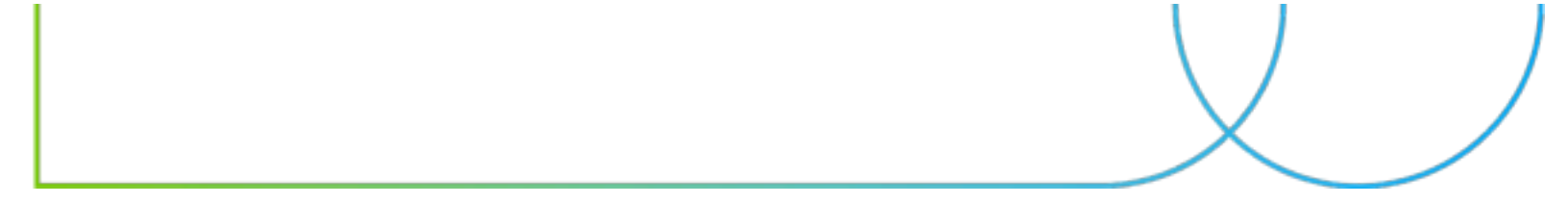
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*Dear Parents and Guardians,*

*I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to share important insights from our recent lesson on the Holocaust. As we strive to give our students a deeper understanding of this pivotal historical event, we were fortunate to partner with [NAME OF LOCAL CHAPTER] which is an affiliate of [Living Links](#), a valuable resource developed at the [USC Shoah Foundation](#). Their commitment to educating our students about the lessons of the Holocaust allowed us to engage meaningfully with this topic through the voice of a guest speaker, a grandchild of a Holocaust Survivor.*

*Before we visited with the speaker, we discussed the importance of learning about this history—not only because it is a watershed event in humanity's history but also because we can learn directly about the consequences of prejudice and racism in any society and the consequences of our choices.*

*Our speaker [name and bio] shared their family legacy. [Please share a bit about what the students heard]*



*After the [speaker name] left, we had time for reflection, and the students were asked to share a moment—a photograph they saw, an artifact, or something they had learned from the speaker—that had meant something to them.*

*So that the conversations can continue at home, we have included a video from the US Holocaust Memorial and some prompting questions to guide you in your conversation with your child.*

**Video:** [WHY WE REMEMBER THE HOLOCAUST](#)

**8:54-MINUTE VIDEO**

**Questions to guide family discussions:**

**Reflection on the Experience:**

1. What was your reaction to the speaker's story? Did anything in particular stand out to you?
2. How did hearing about their family's experience make you feel?
3. What emotions did you experience during the talk—sadness, anger, empathy—and why?

**Understanding Historical Context:**


4. What did you learn about the Holocaust that you didn't know before?
5. Why do you think it's important to learn about events like the Holocaust?
6. In what ways do you think the Holocaust affects our understanding of human rights today?

**Personal Connections:**

7. Can you relate to any aspects of the speaker's experience? How so?
8. What choices would you have made if you lived during that time?
9. How can you apply the lessons learned from the Holocaust to your life today?

**Discussion about Choices and Responsibility:**

10. How did hearing the story affect your sense of responsibility to speak out against prejudice or injustice today?

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11. What are some small ways we can show kindness and understanding to others in our daily lives?

**Empathy and Compassion:**

13. What can we do to foster acceptance and understanding among different cultures in our community?
14. Why is it important to remember the stories of survivors and their descendants?

**Broader Implications:**

16. What parallels can you draw between the Holocaust and issues we face in the world today?
17. Why do you think it's important to keep talking about the Holocaust and its lessons for future generations?
18. What role do you think kindness plays in preventing discrimination and hate?

