

Handout

Personal Stories Worksheet

Directions: Once you've had a chance to read and annotate all the documents in your packet, discuss the questions below in order with your group and record your group's answers on this handout.

1. Name of refugee:
2. Name of American individual(s) or organization(s) that intervened on their behalf:
3. Which document, photo, or artifact had the most impact on you? How does exploring this personal story help you better understand the actions taken by Jewish refugees in response to the threat posed by the Nazis?
4. What might have motivated the American individual(s) or organization(s) to take action on behalf of Jewish refugees?
5. What do you notice about how the refugee frames his or her request? What appeals and assurances does this person make? What do these appeals and assurances reveal about his or her perceptions of American attitudes and policies toward Jewish refugees?
6. Which people or organizations did the refugee or rescuer(s) use, or attempt to use, to help them? How?
7. What do the documents reveal about the complexity of the US immigration process?