



# Survivor-Centred Visual Narratives

## Handout: Testimonial Visual Narrative Assignment Instructions

### Overview

This assignment will give you the opportunity to honour Jewish historical memory through the retelling of Holocaust survivors' personal testimonies. In the style of *Rose65*, you will create a visual narrative to accompany a Holocaust survivor's story. You will be assigned a random survivor from the Azrieli Foundation testimony archive.

Website: <https://memoirs.azrielifoundation.org/recollection/#home|view-all>.

*Teacher Note: You may wish to select testimonies from a local Holocaust education centre or survivor testimony collection to ensure regional relevance and manageable scope.*

### Instructions

You will choose one of the many testimonies associated with your assigned survivor and break it down into a 2-to-3-page (5–7 panels each) comic that retells the story with care, thoughtfulness, and accuracy. You will break down your story using the Visual Narrative Planning Worksheet that will be distributed later in the unit. Your comic must adhere to the Guidelines for the Respectful Retelling of Survivor Testimonies, which will also be provided later in the unit.

Although artistic talent is not being assessed, your comic should still demonstrate care and attention to detail. Panels must be drawn with straight lines, and final versions should be outlined using fine liners and/or sharpies.

In addition, you must use at least three of the comic devices listed below to enhance the meaning of your visual storytelling.

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### Comic Devices

**Panel:** The square or rectangle that contains a single scene. Sometimes, scenes may be placed outside of a panel—this is called an “open panel.”

**Gutters:** The space between the panels.

**Composition:** How the panels, text, dialogue, etc., are arranged on a page.

**Caption:** Boxes containing text that may include scene-setting, description, narration, etc.



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**Sound Effects:** A sound represented in text; the font, colouring, and lettering of sound effects are important in conveying the sound to the reader.

**Speech Bubble/Balloon:** These are rounded, rectangular squares that contain dialogue with a “tail” to indicate who is speaking.

**Thought Bubble/Balloon:** These are similar to speech balloons but show thoughts instead of dialogue. They are often drawn to look like clouds, and circles will replace the tail to show where the thought originates.

Finally, you will write a short reflection that thoughtfully answers the following questions in at least 150 words each:

1. Which three (or more) devices did you use intentionally, and what do they symbolize or represent in your story?
2. How did you ensure your retelling was respectful and trauma-informed? Give specific examples.

Your final submission must include the following:

1. Your final inked comic.
2. A short reflection.