

Process Paper

While researching topics, we immediately gravitated towards the Holocaust. One particular individual, Oskar Schindler, piqued our curiosity. Schindler initially joined the Nazi Party to procure a fortune. As the blood of thousands of Europeans spilled on the battlefield, innocent Jews were being tortured and brutally murdered inside the German concentration camps. As a Nazi, Schindler encountered these atrocities firsthand and could not stand by and watch these people be annihilated. At this moment, Schindler evolved from a profiteering Nazi to a compassionate savior. In order to save the Jews, Schindler manipulated his fellow Nazis and exchanged his coveted fortune and subsequent future. We found it interesting that a man with imperfect character could become the man who salvaged the lives of 1,200 Jews.

We began our research by reading numerous books such as *Oskar Schindler: The Untold Account of His Life, Wartime Activities, and the True Story Behind the List*, written by Schindler expert, David Crowe and *Searching for Schindler*, by Thomas Keneally. After examining the entirety of Schindler's life through biographical resources, we delved into primary sources for firsthand accounts. The crux of our research was the records of the Schindlerjuden. These sources made Schindler more than just words in a textbook. Later, we contacted innumerable interviewees that had an extensive amount of knowledge of Schindler. We conducted interviews with David M. Crowe, Dr. Brian Crim, Dr. David Crew, Dr. Michael Berenbaum, Tomasz Owoc, and Monika Bednarek.

When selecting a category, we immediately gravitated towards the website division because of our love for writing and creativity. After extensive research, we categorized the information into separate tabs, focusing on the overarching theme of encounter and exchange. Later, we made specific sections as subcategories. After having an outline of ideas, we began to write and integrate videos, pictures, speeches, and quotes. When the website was complete, we assiduously edited the entire website.

Our topic, Oskar Schindler, directly correlates to the theme, "Explore, Encounter, and Exchange". Firstly, Schindler encountered the malevolence of the Nazi Party. He hired countless Jews at his enamelware factory after he recognized the Nazi's intent to "purify" the human race of those who were considered "inferior" to the Aryan race. In the best interest of his workers, he saved Jews from entering the Plaszow concentration camp or the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp during the Krakow ghetto liquidation. Furthermore, Schindler persuaded Amon Göth, the SS commandant of the Plaszow concentration camp, to permit him to form a supposed sub camp in his enamelware factory. Then, Schindler moved his factory to Brännlitz when he learned that the Nazi Party was planning on shutting down any factory not related to the war effort. Secondly, Schindler exchanged his fortune and future for the lives of his Schindlerjuden. Schindler spent his wealth on bribing SS officers to spare Jews during the Nazi Genocide. After several business failures following the war, he survived from the donations of his Schindlerjuden and died destitute. Therefore, Oskar Schindler relates to the theme, Explore, Encounter, and Exchange.