

Name: _____ Date: _____

Remembering Ben Kamm

Read "Teens Against Hitler." Then use this activity to help you prepare for the writing prompt on page 10:

Imagine that a statue is being put up to honor Ben Kamm. Write a speech to be read when the statue is unveiled to the public. Be sure to explain who Ben was and why we should remember him. Support your ideas with details from the text.

1. BRAINSTORM

Directions: Before you start writing, brainstorm what you might want to include in your speech. Fill in the boxes below. We've provided a few ideas for you.

Who was Ben Kamm?

Add at least three biographical details to the list below.

Grew up in Warsaw, Poland

His family was killed in the Warsaw ghetto during the Holocaust

What kind of person was Ben Kamm?

Add at least two more words that describe Ben's character or personality.

adventurous

brave

Why should we remember Ben Kamm?

Answer at least two of the following questions:

A. In what way might he be an inspiration or a role model?

B. What might his story remind us or teach us?

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Continued from previous page.

C. Why is it important to learn the individual stories of people who were involved in the Holocaust?

D. Are there any other reasons you think we should remember Ben Kamm?

2. PREPARE TO WRITE

Review your notes.

Read through your notes. Highlight or draw a star next to the points that you think are most important and that you definitely want to include in your speech.

Choose your central idea.

What is the big idea you want your audience to get from your speech?

Write your central idea here:

Consider your tone.

A speech in support of a presidential candidate would probably have an admiring, optimistic, and energetic tone. What tone do you want to strike in your speech about Ben Kamm? Think about what is appropriate for the occasion and for your central idea.

Write your ideas here:

3. WRITE YOUR SPEECH

It's time to start writing! Here is a basic structure you can use for your speech:

A. Introduction

- **Greet your audience.** You might thank them for coming or share something about how you feel to be telling them about Ben Kamm. You are there for the unveiling of a statue—so you might want to say something about that.
- **Let your audience know what you will be speaking about.** In other words, get your central idea out there. If your audience knows what you are going to talk about, it will be easier for them to stay focused as you go into more detail.

B. Body

- This is where you talk about the things you highlighted from your brainstorming. Think about how to arrange your ideas so that they flow logically. Consider:
 - Do you want to start with a brief biography of Ben and then talk about why we should remember him? Or do you want to start with why we should remember him, filling in details about his life as necessary so that what you are saying makes sense to your audience?
 - Do you want to tell Ben's story chronologically? Or is there another structure that would work better? For example, you could start with a dramatic moment or Ben's life in America and then go back in time.
- Be sure to include details from “Teens Against Hitler” that support your ideas. For example, if you say that Ben was brave and heroic, support your characterization with information from the article.
- Continue to ask yourself if what you are saying relates to your central idea. It should!

C. Conclusion

- State your central idea—in different words—one more time. You want to make sure your audience gets it!
- Find a powerful ending. The last thing you say is what your audience will remember most, so it needs to be strong. Think again about what you want your audience to get out of your speech. Some options include:
 - **A call to action:** Is there something you want your listeners to do?
 - **A quotation:** Is there a meaningful quotation that relates to your central idea?
 - **A call-back:** Briefly return to something you said earlier that you want to stick in the audience's mind. You could say, “Perhaps every time you pass by this statue, you will remember . . .” (and then give your call-back).

4. REVISE

- ✓ Read your speech aloud. If possible, record yourself and then listen. Ask yourself: Would someone listening come away with a clear idea of my central idea? Is there a good flow from one idea to the next? Is the tone right? Have I used evidence from "Teens Against Hitler" to support my ideas?
- ✓ Also, keep in mind that whatever the tone of your speech is, you want your audience to feel like you are talking to them, not like you are reading an essay to them. So keep your sentences short and be less formal than you would in a written academic essay.
- ✓ Make changes that will improve your speech. Then read your speech aloud again. If you need to, revise it again. Repeat these two steps until you are satisfied!