

## Lesson CONTEMPORARY ANTISEMITISM

### Reflect and Respond

Either in class or as homework, have students reflect and respond to one or more of the topics below or have them develop a topic that has meaning for them based on the material covered in the lesson.

- Search [Witness](#) for testimonies from individuals who have stood up to antisemitism and other forms of bigotry in their communities. Reflect on the actions these people have taken, their motivations, and what we can learn from those who have chosen not to be bystanders.
- Today, the amount of antisemitic content and messages being spread across the world via the Internet continues to grow exponentially. A 2016 global report from the Australian-based Online Hate Prevention Institute, "[Measuring the Hate: The State of Antisemitism in Social Media](#)," highlights that not enough is being done to combat antisemitism in social media. The report, based on tracking over 2,000 items of antisemitism posted over the last ten months, found that only 20% of the items were removed. What do you think is the responsibility of social media companies and media in general to monitor and remove antisemitic content and other forms of hatred and prejudice? What, if anything, do you think can be done so that individuals behave more respectfully and responsibly on these sites? How do we balance our Constitutional Right to free speech with the harm that what can only be described as hateful speech inflicts upon individuals, groups, and society in general?
- In his testimony Henry Oertelt says, "I am the prime example of what can happen to people that are suffering under prejudicial circumstances and biases...and we have to learn to speak up when we see prejudice and hatred." Why do you think more people don't speak up when they witness these types of behaviors? How have the individuals you have been introduced to in this lesson, including Henry, helped you think about your role in your own community?