



## Reflect & Respond

The questions below, used in class or as homework, prompt students to reflect on what they are learning and its meaning in their own lives and in society.

These queries are excellent for journaling, allowing students to create their own primary source material. Keep in mind, the sensitive and emotional nature of the topics may preclude teacher evaluation. If journaling is used as an assessment tool, assure students that they will not be evaluated negatively for expressing opinions that may be different from others in class or from the teacher's.

- A frequently cited dictum on Holocaust representation is German philosopher and sociologist Theodor Adorno's statement: "...to write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric..." How do you interpret this statement? What role do you feel poetry plays in chronicling the individual's experience during or after the Holocaust? What is the value of reading and studying Holocaust poetry? What are the possible limitations?
- Following the Holocaust, many survivors questioned why they had been spared when so many of their family, friends, and neighbors had perished. Similarly, survivors of other catastrophes (e.g., September 11th) also expressed feelings of guilt for having survived. Why do you think people have this reaction? Do you think such feelings influence how the survivors go on to live their lives? If so, how?