

MEMEORY WALK YOUTH FILMS

DEFINITIONS:

Memory Walk is an interactive program developed by the Anne Frank House that serves to engage young people and others in educational reflection and discussion about how we remember past events, through an examination of monuments and memorials in the living environment.

A Memory Walk film is a short film that examines these objects and looks at the multiple ways in which they can be interpreted. Memory Walk films connect to the educational mission of the Anne Frank House: Remember, Reflect and Respond. They are the product of a process in which young people become the creators of their own short films. The films are thus the final product of a lengthier educational process.

AIMS:

The creation of Memory Walk films aims to serve as a trigger for discussions among youth during the process about how we commemorate the past, how there are multiple and sometimes contrasting narratives of that past, and how monuments represent the outcome of discussion, negotiation and compromise. The creation process of the film also allows discussion about the value and appropriateness of the monuments, as well as an opportunity for youth to create their own short historical film.

The use of this product in schools and other domains is not the aim of Memory Walk, though this is seen as desirable. Therefore it is important that the final product meets certain technical quality standards so that product that can be used by other educators when wishing to explore a particular history or monument..

The target youth are 14-25 years of age and ideally come from diverse backgrounds

CRITERIA:

Memory Walk films are the final result of a multiple day workshop format. Youth are guided through a process of learning through presentations, interactive activities, exploration and film creation. The core feature of Memory Walk films is their capacity to capture the historical essence and contemporary meaning of monuments and memorials in the format of a short film. The films should be unbiased and built on research and interviews conducted by the participants. Memory Walk films should be succinct and should not exceed 5 minutes in length.

More concretely, Memory Walk films should reflect the core educational approaches of the Anne Frank House, namely:

1. Remember, reflect, respond

All Memory Walk films should contain dimensions of remember, reflect and respond. In this context, *remember* refers to remembering historical events, *reflect* refers to the significance of monuments and

memorials today and a critical view of their appropriateness, while *respond* refers to the making of a film. Ideally, a manual about the films is created with instruction guidelines for educators.

2. Conveying History

To meet the criteria of being a Memory Walk film, the film should briefly cover the history that the monument or memorial refers to, in order to give the film a context. The history can be presented in various ways: through a voice over, text, interviews, images etc.

3. Critical Thinking and Multiperspectivity

Memory Walk films should not be propaganda films that either attack or glorify a certain narrative of history, or a certain monument. The films should strive to provide a balanced picture with respect to the histories and monuments portrayed. The films should show both support and opposition to the monuments presented in the films. In this manner the films promote critical thinking and multiperspectivity.

4. Triggering discussion, debate and exploration

Memory Walk films are not intended to offer a 'closed book'. Instead they should contain a question that can serve as a trigger for discussion, debate and/or further exploration in classroom settings. Ideally, the film ends with one of the suggested short questions that is presented at the end of the film.

SET-UP MEMORY WALK FILM

- history and purpose of the monument, when it was built (1 minute)
- current point of view on the issues that were addressed that time and how they changed since then (1 minute)
- Interviews with people, who pass by (1 min 30 seconds) about their personal point of view
- Conclusion (1 minute)
- Final question (20 seconds).