Has The World Remained Silent? Visual Literacy Project

Over the course of our engagement with the autobiography *Night,* by Elie Wiesel, we have been grappling with the atrocities of the Holocaust, and have been discussing the importance of keeping memory alive, as well as acknowledging both human suffering and human’s capacity for evil with regard to this particular historical tragedy. However, of course, as we have also discussed, human suffering and evil are not limited to the Holocaust alone, a point the author himself proclaims in proclaiming, “there is so much injustice and suffering crying out for our attention . . . Human rights are being violated on every continent. More people are oppressed than free. How can one not be sensitive to their plight? *Human suffering anywhere concerns men and women everywhere* (Wiesel 119, emphasis added). This crucial passage, as well as this autobiography as a whole, operates under the notion that we must take action, and that we must break the silence that often pervades the world during horrific tragedies like the Holocaust.

Thus, in turn, this assignment asks you to consider the powerful question of whether or not the world has *remained* silent in the wake of other devastating events such as the Holocaust by constructing a **visual argument** around a current event that occurred *after* the Holocaust that breaks the silence, so to speak, and brings attention to social injustice that occurs in places around the world. You will create your visual argument by incorporating images pertaining to your event of choice through the use of PowerPoint, iMovie, Prezi, PhotoPeach, a poster, or another presentational program/format of your choice, that you will then share with your classmates and I by way of a formal presentation. In addition, you are of course *more* than encouraged to focus on an event that speaks to you personally and that you can relate to your own cultural, racial, religious, or ethnic heritage, if applicable, and if you feel comfortable doing so.

As always, if you have any further questions, or feel that you need additional help, do not hesitate to ask! ☺

The following checklist offers further guidelines, and elaborates upon my expectations of your visual literacy project:

* Choose a historical/current event that has taken place **after** the Holocaust.
* Presentation must be created by using PowerPoint, iMovie, Prezi, PhotoPeach, poster board, or by way of another visual presentational program/format of your choice (Note: be sure to consult with me if you plan/choose to use another program/format than the ones listed here).
* Incorporate at least 8 images that are illustrative of the current event, and that strengthen your main, overarching argument.
* Your assignment should have a beginning, middle, and end in that it should provide:
1. An introduction to the particular issue you have chosen to pursue (where/when/why did it take place, for example)
2. An elaboration of the impact/effects of the tragedy
3. An effective ending that powerfully suggests why the world should not have remained/should not remain silent.
* Captions are not absolutely required, but they are highly recommended in that they will help you to create a better flow in your argument/give your audience a better understanding of your topic.
* The presentation should be no shorter than 5 minutes long, but no longer than 8.
* As always, you must properly cite any/all research you conduct through a MLA format works cited page.

Follow-Up Reflective Journal Prompt:

Taking into consideration your peers’ as well as your own visual literacy project, do you feel the world has continued to remain silent after the Holocaust? Why, or why not? Additionally, if so, in what ways do you feel society/we can give voice to, and therefore “un-silence” these issues?