

## Teacher Presentation Summary

**Lesson plan title:** Jewish life in Pre-War Europe through Wordles

**Your name/name of your school:** Lee Holder, North Lenoir High School

**City/country:** LaGrange, NC

**Primary subject of lesson (History, English, etc):** History/Modern Genocides class

**Grade level of students:** high school

**Total required time to teach lesson:** Two lessons, 60 minutes each

### Goal(s) of lesson:

Students will:

- understand the diversity of Jewish life in pre-war Europe;
- hone summarizing skills;
- learn how to sift through information to highlight important facts for understanding a story;
- see how Jewish life for many teens in pre-war Europe was not so different from their own.

### Brief summary of your lesson:

Students are each given a short, multimedia film from Centropa to watch. As they watch – they may need to watch it more than once – they are to write down words that important to the story: events (e.g., Kristallnacht), values (e.g., loyalty), or anything important to the person whose story they are watching (e.g., a violin, sports, family). Once they are clear about the story, they go to the Wordle website (<http://www.wordle.net>) and make a word cloud that accurately represents the story they watched. The more times they type in a word the larger that word will appear in the word cloud, and students can choose the colors of their Wordle. After they are done, each student projects his or her Wordle in front of the class and shares the story they learned with the others only using the Wordle as a guide. After each student has presented his or her Wordle, the teacher leads a class discussion about what Jewish life was like prior to the war, and any similarities or differences they saw in the stories from Serbia to Austria, Poland to Macedonia, Hungary to Greece.

### Centropa and other sources used:

Centropa films: <http://www.centropa.org/centropa-cinema>

Wordle (word cloud) site: <http://www.wordle.net>

Computers or tablets, access to Internet, projector for presentations