

Raise Your Voice *Afternoon Experience*

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TOPIC (S)	Social Justice, Jewish History
SUMMARY	Everywhere and throughout time, people have been speaking up both literally and metaphorically. There are people raising issues, demanding answers to essential questions, causing a ruckus, taking a stand. Some of those perspectives are ones that might speak to you powerfully; some of those people might claim to be speaking for you. How do you want to respond? In what ways do you want to be heard? This afternoon experience will be an immersive journey where you'll get to take in and react to many examples of Jewish voices raised politically, culturally, artistically and beyond, and where you'll also have space and time to play with your own ideas of how you want to be a part of the conversation.
GOALS:	<p>Participants will better understand the concept and practice of speaking up for the values you hold and against the injustices you observe.</p> <p>Participants will know about several such examples from Jewish history and the current moment.</p> <p>Participants will have new ideas about what they might want to speak up about and how to do it.</p>
AUDIENCE:	Geared towards teenagers and staff members. Group size can vary widely depending on physical space and number of facilitators for debrief groups.
TIMING:	75 minutes
APPENDICES:	Everything is on this padlet: https://padlet.com/salpert1/u3rno70w9lcwb5jv .
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<p>If the program is virtual, then no materials are needed other than Zoom and the Padlet link: https://padlet.com/salpert1/u3rno70w9lcwb5jv.</p> <p>If the program is in person, then the supplies are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - printouts of the items in the gallery walk (the text and images) and/or various computer/tablets set up with the images or videos, - paper pasted around or next to the gallery walk items where participants can write their reactions, - pens or thin markers, - looseleaf paper and various drawing supplies - masking tape

<p>SET-UP DETAILS:</p>	<p>If in person, then you'll need a space that can function as a "gallery" where text and images can be posted on walls or tables with room next to (or under, or surrounding) them for participants to write their reactions. You may also want to have tables where laptops or tablets can be set up to show videos as part of the gallery (again with paper next to them for participant reactions).</p> <p>There should also be enough space for the group to gather for discussion, for smaller groups to break off for debrief, and for everyone to have some space to work on their own contributions to the gallery.</p>
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SESSION TIMELINE

- 00:00-00:10 - Opening
- 00:10-00:35 - First gallery walk (with prepared examples) and debrief
- 00:35-00:45 - Project: creating your own "Raise Your Voice" examples
- 00:45-00:55 - Second gallery walk (with new participant examples)
- 00:55-01:15 - Closing

SESSION OUTLINE:

Opening: 10 minutes

- Opening Activity:
 - Before the program, choose about a dozen statements from the Raise Your Voice Gallery on the Padlet -- it can be a mix of first-person statements, descriptive ones, etc. They should include perspectives and opinions that would likely be commonplace in your particular community as well as ones that would likely be more controversial.
 - Ask everyone to close their eyes. Let everyone know that you'll be reading quotes from a variety of people -- some of the quotes they might agree with, others they might not. They should pay attention to their bodily responses - do they feel themselves relax or tense up? Smile? Does their breathing change? What else? They don't need to judge or analyze any of their reactions -- just notice them and let them move through their bodies.
 - Read the statements out loud while the participants keep their eyes closed and notice their reactions. if you have multiple facilitators, trade off reading statements.
 - Once you've finished reading the list, ask everyone to stay with their eyes closed for another moment. Take a deep breath together.
 - Ask everyone to open their eyes. Ask if there are a couple of people who are comfortable sharing some of the reactions they noticed in themselves (but without naming which statement caused that reaction).

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- Transition into overall program framing:
 - Share the overarching concept of this program - that the ways we express ourselves are valuable and impactful, that such moments of
 - expression/debate/protest/etc have been (and remain) a crucial part of Jewish history and Jewish culture, and that we want to create space here for us to explore some of those examples, raise up some of our own, and think about how we want to react to and/or amplify particular perspectives.
 - Set some boundaries and expectations:
 - Some of the examples that we've included here (or some of the examples that others might raise up) might be perspectives that alienate or offend you or that you simply disagree with.
 - Allow yourself to have whatever reactions you need, including the space to name when you personally find a perspective to be harmful.
 - If a particular example feels overwhelming to you, feel free to skip it.
 - The reason we've chosen to include this range of examples is that we believe it's just as important to spend time considering the voices you want to amplify as the voices you want to protest or push back on. The question of "what is a Jewish value" can get extremely subjective, and there are people in the world saying they are speaking for the Jewish people in various ways. A big part of what we're exploring today is the question of what you want to do about that.
 - Please refrain from trying to convince anyone else here today of your opinion on any of the issues raised -- we want you to feel free to honestly express your perspective, but we won't have the appropriate time or space today for productive debate. If you'd like to have that kind of follow-up conversation with anyone today about the opinions they express, ask them if they'd like to do so and respect their answer if they say no.

First Gallery Walk (25 minutes)

- Setup (2 minutes):
 - This Padlet (<https://padlet.com/salpert1/u3rno70w9lcwb5jv>) includes about 15 examples of Jews raising their voices about an issue that matters to them -- trying to get a particular perspective heard and to create change on whatever that issue might be.
 - Participants will have about 15 minutes to walk around the gallery (or to explore it online), reading through examples (and watching videos if applicable), and adding their reactions to the gallery exhibit. Possible questions to consider in your responses: What inspires you? What troubles you? What links to your personal Jewish identity and/or history and/or community? What raises questions or perspectives that you haven't considered before? What new questions do these perspectives lead you to ask?
 - They likely won't have time to look at every example, so feel free to scroll

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through (or move around the space) and pick a few to dig into.

- Time for gallery walk and written responses (15 minutes)
- Debrief (8 minutes):
 - Bring the group back together. Depending on the size of the group, you can
 - stay together for the debrief or split into smaller groups. Discuss:
 - What examples were you especially excited by or troubled by?
 - How, if at all, have you put yourself in conversation with these kinds of perspectives in the past? (For example, participating in related events, sharing on social media, creating art on these issues, etc) How did that feel for you? What was challenging about it? What helped to motivate you towards getting involved?
 - What feels scary or exciting (or any other reaction) about getting involved with these sorts of issues? With raising up your own voice up in support? Or raising your voice in disagreement?

Project: create your own example (10 minutes)

- Setup (2 min):
 - If in person, give everyone paper and drawing supplies (pens, markers, crayons, etc).
 - If virtual, show everyone how to add to the Padlet.
 - Explain that everyone should pick an example of “raising your voice” that they’ve been personally connected to or inspired by in the past.
 - It can be an event or campaign or artistic creation (or anything!) that they personally attended or contributed to in some way.
 - Or it can be an event or campaign or artistic creation or person they’ve read about or followed in some way.
 - It should ideally include an image and a few sentences of explanation. If you’re doing this online, then people can pull the images from the internet. if you’re in person and there’s access to devices, then people can display the images on the devices. If you’re in person and participants can’t use technology themselves, then they can draw some sort of related image (even just a protest sign).
- Give participants time to create (8 minutes).

Second gallery walk (10 min):

- As participants finish creating their examples, have them hang them in the space or add them to the Padlet.
- Give everyone ten minutes to walk around, look at each others’ examples and again respond in writing. Again, possible questions to consider in the written responses: What inspires you? What troubles you? What links to your personal Jewish identity and/or history and/or community? What raises questions or perspectives that you haven’t considered before? What new questions do these perspectives lead you to ask?
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through (or move around the space) and pick a few to dig into.

Closing debrief/discussion/activity (20 min):

- Pair and share about the second gallery walk (5 min):
 - With one other person, share a little about your reactions to the second
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 - gallery walk. How did it feel to tell everyone about an issue that matters to you? How did it feel to look through those examples from other participants?
- Come back together for a closing discussion (10 min):
 - When you think about this idea of people raising their voices towards change, what excites you about it?
 - What concerns you?
 - Do you think there should be boundaries on how this kind of expression takes place?
 - How do we draw effective lines that allow for meaningful freedom of expression without allowing for speech that harms or denies the humanity of people in our community (and beyond)? Is that possible?
 - When you think about who's speaking on your behalf out in the world (as "the Jewish people"), what do you want to do about that?
 - What else needs to happen in order for actions of protest to be meaningful and effective? I.e. when you've personally been moved by one of these voices, what work had you done previously to be open to that perspective? What new work did that voice lead you towards?
 - What makes some voices heard more effectively than others? What can we all be doing to create more access?
- Closing activity (5 min):
 - Ask everyone to take a moment and think of how they would finish either of the following two statements:
 - I am excited to learn more about...
 - I believe...
 - Go around and have each person share their statement.

BRINGING IT BACK TO CAMP & SHIFTING TO IN PERSON:

The outline includes instructions for setting up for this in person instead of virtually -- see notes throughout.

Also, this program model can be used for almost any content -- the basic idea is sharing a wide range of examples from a particular content area, using those examples to broaden participants' understanding of how others think and act, and then giving participants room to create and share from their own stories/thoughts. Some examples of other content that could be applied to this model:

- highlight approaches to creative ritual (and then creating your own);
- explore content about Jewish identity (with participants then creating content about their own Jewish identity);



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- bring in various voices from a whole range of identities and ways of looking at the world (with space for participants to then express their own perspectives);
- present content on various Jewish values (with participants then creating their own take on a particular value).