

Possible topics for school talks and interviews

The family's history before 1933

- Family background
- Neighborhood in Frankfurt, contacts and social life
- Profession and/or business, schools attended of parents and grandparents
- What role did religion play in the family? Which synagogue did they attend?
- Did they belong to other organizations?

The family 1933-38 - Changes

- Professional situation
- School attended
- Family
- Address / living situation
- Fear, persecution, arrest, investigations, interrogations
- Memories of certain political incidents or remarkable moments in the family or in the neighborhood
- Relationship with friends, neighbors, classmates etc.

How did people think about emigration ?

- When did members of the family consider leaving the country?
- When did members of the family emigrate?
- Which events drove them?
- Which countries were considered?
- Did the family stay together or did they leave individually?
- What were the barriers or motives to stay?

1938-41

- How do people remember "Kristallnacht", arrests, damage to their homes or businesses?
- Conditions of emigration after "Kristallnacht", conditions that made emigration impossible
- How did people live after "Kristallnacht"?

"Kindertransport"

- How do people remember decision-making and parents' emotions?
- Separation and farewell: Did people think it was only for a while, or did they fear it was forever?
- What happened to the parents?
- Which memories are there in case the parents emigrated after the children?

Family during the war

- How did they live during the war?
- Are there memories of prisons or concentration camps?
- What do people know about the fate of relatives in Germany?

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Under which conditions did emigrants live?

- Initial conditions and changes over time
- Difficulties using a foreign language
- Could emigrants work in their own profession, could they qualify in the new country?
- Was it an issue in the new country to be Jewish/to come from Germany/or to be a German?
- Was it possible for emigrants to learn about the lives and/or deportation of relatives who remained in Germany?

After the war

- Did relatives or friends want to go back to Germany?
- How would they describe their relationship to their new country and to Germany? Has it changed during the years?
- What did the emigrants know/find out about the fate of their relatives?

Coming (back) to Germany

- Did family members or friends return to live in Germany?
- Did they come back for a visit and when?
- What were/are their/your reasons to visit Germany?
- What did they/you experience?
- What was their/is your impression about the way Germany deals with the past?

Children and their relatives/friends: How to talk about the past?

- Which languages are used in your family?
- Which languages do you or your children speak?
- Does the 2nd or 3rd generation learn German (at home, at school, at university)?
- At what time and how did your parents/grandparents talk about the past in Germany?
- What was your response? How did they feel about it?
- What were the stories or lessons you grew up with?
- How was the communication about Germany's past and your family's history among friends and in the community (school, neighborhood, workplace, etc.)?
- What did you learn about the Holocaust in school? In which grade and how?
- Did/do you or relatives give speeches about the family's history in schools, etc.?
- What are your/their experiences?

Visit to Frankfurt

- What motivated you to come to Frankfurt?
- What would you like to see?
- Whom would you like to meet?