

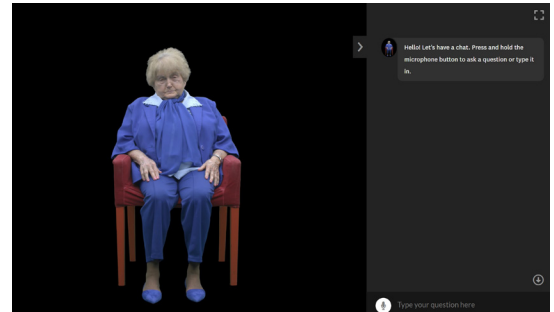
How to Engage with Dimensions in Testimony

Guidelines for Students

What is Dimensions in Testimony?

USC Shoah Foundation's [Dimensions in Testimony \(DiT\)](#) provides students with the opportunity to have a conversational experience with interactive biographies of Holocaust and genocide survivors.

Pinchas Gutter, a Jewish survivor of the Holocaust, was the first to be interviewed with DiT technology in 2014. Over the course of five days, Pinchas was asked over 1,000 questions about his life before, during and after the Holocaust. Since then, USC Shoah Foundation has continued to record interactive biographies, including biographies recorded in Hebrew, German, Spanish, Russian and Mandarin. This innovation is accessible in IWitness.



By asking an interactive biography questions that prompt real-time responses from pre-recorded video interviews, you can collect information such as details from their childhood, their experiences during genocide or stories from their life after the genocide.

Tips and Guidelines for Engaging with Dimensions in Testimony

Access Interactive Biographies in IWitness

- *Five-Minute Summary*: For an overview of their life, ask, “Can you share your five-minute summary?”
- Ask them one of the following questions or ask about an aspect of the experience you are curious to know more about.

Can you tell me about your childhood?
What was your life like before the war?
Where did you live during the Holocaust?
How were you separated from your family?
Which camps were you in?
What were the camps like?
What was the Holocaust like?
Where have you lived since the genocide ended?

How were you liberated?
When did you first feel free?
How did you survive?
What was your life like after the war?
What is your message for us?
Do you have a message for students?
Tell me about liberation.

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Ask Meaningful Questions

- › Tip #1 – Know the Individual: Gather basic information about the individual before you ask them questions.
 - See their written biography or view the images available in the gallery.
- › Tip #2 – Be Aware of the Historical Context
 - Consider viewing the Brief History of the Holocaust to learn more about the series of experiences which changed the course of their life.
- › Tip #3 – Have a Topic of Focus
 - Think about a key idea or experience that you would like them to share more about. Spend at least 10-15 minutes asking questions relevant to this topic to get a full understanding of their story relevant to the topic.
- › Tip #4 – Be Curious
 - Are there topics or ideas you want to know more about? Interactive biographies can answer questions about the past, the present, the future, about beliefs, ideas, faith, humanity. Explore by asking questions that come to mind as you learn more about the survivor.

Technology Tips

- Make sure that your microphone and speaker are enabled and on.
- Click and hold the microphone icon in the DiT screen and ask your question. Be sure to speak clearly.
- Once you have asked your question, release the hold on the microphone and listen to the response.
- You may also type your question in the space available, instead of using the microphone. (*See using Transcript below*)



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Using the Transcript*

- To follow your conversation with the interactive biography, click on the download symbol (down arrow) in the right-hand corner to access the transcript.
- Before exiting the DiT page, be sure to save a copy of your transcript to your computer.

**Please note: The Dimensions in Testimony transcript feature is a work in progress and might misinterpret your words. Thank you for your patience while we continue to improve the technology.*

