



**Phrase-Word Thinking Routine with primary sources, adapted from Harvard Project Zero for Densho's ["Examining Racism and Discrimination Through Oral History"](#) curriculum (currently under development)**

### **Phrase-Word**

A routine for "essence capturing" and exploring the meaning of text from a variety of personal viewpoints.

1. Review the transcript of the oral history interview and highlight: (5 minutes)
  - a. A phrase that moved, engaged, provoked, or was in some way meaningful, noting why it stood out.
  - b. A word that is particularly powerful, captures attention, noting why it was chosen.
2. In small groups, have each member share their selections. Write these down so that they are made visible to everyone in the group. (10 - 15 minutes)
  - a. Start with each member reading their *phrase* aloud, then explaining why it was selected.
  - b. After everyone has shared and discussed their *phrase* selection, repeat for the *word*. Explaining why their made their selections is particularly important to this process.
3. Look at and discuss the responses and make connections to each other's selections. This discussion is at the heart of this routine. (10 - 20 minutes)
  - a. What common themes emerge in the group's responses?
  - b. What implications, interpretations, or predictions (your choice here will depend on the type of text being read) surrounding the text emerge from the group's responses?
  - c. What aspects/points from the text were missing from the group's discussion? Why do you think this is?
  - d. What other ideas or questions emerge?

4. Have each group member reflect briefly on his or her current understanding of the text and how this routine contributed to his or her understanding. (5 Minutes)
  
5. If you plan to have your students build on this routine with the *Found Poem* activity, have each student write their phrase and their word on two separate strips of paper (accounting tape or sentence strips work well for this activity). Ask them to print large, legible letters using a marker. Follow the instructions for the Found Poem to complete the activity. (5-minutes)