

HANDOUT

Building a Toolbox

In this project, you will create a real, tangible toolbox that reflects what you have learned about how the lessons of the past can be used as a tool to guide our responses to injustice. Toolboxes can take a variety of forms: an actual box with a new design or decoration, a hollowed-out old book, a soft-sided sewn object, a picture frame, a shadow box, or something else that represents or relates to your topic. Your “tools” can also take many forms: paintings, collages or other forms of visual art, poems or favorite quotations, or symbolic objects (e.g., eyeglasses to help you focus more clearly), to name just a few. There are a number of questions that you need to consider when deciding which items to include in your toolbox:

- What will I have in my toolbox that represents my answer to the course assessment prompt:
How can learning about the choices people made in the past be used as a tool to guide our responses to injustice, mass violence, and genocide in our communities and in the world today?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me and others do “small acts” of goodness on a daily basis?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me and others turn those small acts into something bigger and more impactful?
- What will I include in my toolbox that will help me and others choose kindness over indifference, especially during difficult times?
- What will I need in my toolbox to sustain me when this work gets hard?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me remember why this work is necessary?
- What will I have in my toolbox that can help me build connections with people who are different from me?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me seek allies and partners to enhance the impact of our efforts?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me and others take action to ensure that mass violence and genocide does not continue to occur in the present and future?

In addition to the toolbox, you will also complete a short writing assignment that **briefly explains your answer to the course assessment prompt, the tools you chose, how you imagine you will use each of them, and how they connect to the world you hope to create** (e.g., the importance of preserving human dignity, choosing kindness over cruelty, fighting against injustice, and breaking ambitious efforts for social change into smaller daily habits).

Your toolbox should:

1. Be a tangible, constructed, creative, three-dimensional box that is filled with at least five items that are your tools. Speak with your teacher about whether your toolbox can have virtual elements.
2. Demonstrate effort, thoughtfulness, and insight into our course of study.
3. Clearly and thoughtfully convey answers to the questions listed above, through the tools and possibly the toolbox itself.
4. Be accompanied by a well-composed, thoughtful piece of writing that clearly explains your answer to the course assessment prompt, the tools found in your toolbox, their meaning to you, and how they will help you participate in your community to build a just and equitable society.