

# “Toolbox for Standing Up to Hate” Project

Eleanor Roosevelt argued in a famous speech called “Where Do Human Rights Begin?” that human rights originate “in small places, close to home. . . . Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” In this project, you will be creating a toolbox that will support you in upholding human rights “close to home”: standing up against hatred and bigotry in your own community.

**Your task:** You will create a real, tangible toolbox that 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, 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 can help me break down stereotypes in my school or community?
- 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 do “small acts” of goodness on a daily basis?
- What will I have in my toolbox that will help me turn those small acts into something bigger and more impactful?
- What will I include in my toolbox that will help me choose kindness over cruelty, 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?

In addition to the toolbox, you must also complete a short writing assignment that **explains your tools, how you imagine you will use each of them, and how they connect to some of the themes explored in *Schindler’s List*** (e.g., the importance of preserving human dignity, choosing kindness over cruelty, and breaking monumental acts of heroism 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
2. Demonstrate effort, thoughtfulness, and insight into our course of study
3. Clearly and thoughtfully convey answers to some of 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 the tools found in your toolbox, their meaning to you, and how they will help you stand up to hate