



Six Word Memoirs for the End of the Year

Topic

Reflection, Assessment, End of Year Activities

Grade Level(s)

4 and up

Background for Teachers

Six Word Memoirs are a growing trend as writers, celebrities, and “regular folk” are telling their stories in just six words. Smith Magazine’s <http://sixwordmemoirs.com> boasts memoirs on every topic including teens, school, love, and even Jewish topics.

To end the year, challenge your students to tell their personal and Judaic experiences in just six words. This activity is a fun way for students to describe themselves to each other, to reflect on their learning, and to use concise and clever language.

Description of Activity & Sample Six Word Memoirs

You might have students write about:

What changes in your personal life have impacted your growth this year?

Example: New School, New Friends, New Happiness

What did you learn this year in Hebrew school that you applied to your own life?

Example: Pride And Confidence; Leading our Seder

How can you put Jewish values in action this summer?

Example: Tikun Olam, Soup Kitchen, Better Self

What are your hopes for next year?

Example: Embracing Challenges, Hoping to Happily Succeed

Or, ask students to be creative and choose a theme for their memoir.

Collect the responses in a word document, Google Doc, or on your classroom blog so that the students can share and read each other’s writings.

For more examples, visit <http://sixwordmemoirs.com>.

Differentiation Options

Knowing that students learn in a variety of ways and modalities, the following options are provided to adjust the above lesson to meet the unique needs of your learners.



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For learners who need more assistance

- Provide a word bank with key vocabulary from topics you covered during the year.
- As a class, brainstorm lists of words that relate to topics that you covered in the year. As you collect words, organize them into noun, verb, and adjective categories. Have this list posted in the classroom for students to use when they write their memoirs.

For learners who need extension opportunities

Check out [ShakeUpLearning's Collaborative Magnetic Poetry](#) using Google Drawings. Ask students to use the words provided and/or to add words to make their six word memoirs using the downloadable template.

Important notes:

- A Google account is required to use the template and to download it to your account; however, many students already have Google accounts through their schools.
- To add your own words, add a text box. To make the formatting similar to the words provided, change the text box background fill to white and the border to a thicker black line.