

Sample Informational Brainstorming Page: Day 1

Prompt: In an informational essay, explain how the individual you researched resisted the Nazis by taking significant action to save lives during the Holocaust.

Identity: What was this person's background?	• Japanese diplomat (Yad Vashem) • sent to Lithuania to get info for Japan (YV) • had wife and three children (YV)
Actions: What specific actions did they take to save lives?	• Jewish refugees asked for transport visas to leave Lithuania (YV) • began issuing the visas even before Japanese gov't responded to his question about doing so (YV) • distributed visas even after Japanese gov't said not to (YV) • provided between 2100 and 3500 visas (YV) • stamped passports until the moment he left Lithuania (YV)
Motivations: What inspired their decision to take action?	• groups of Jewish people were desperate and begged him for help (YV) • saw the people lined up in front of his house looking miserable with no other options (YV)
Consequences: What risks did they face if they were caught?	• Japanese gov't warned him not to issue visas (YV) • knew he could lose his job upon returning to Japan. Was fired in 1946 (YV) • made living doing odd jobs after being fired (YV)
Other questions:	• people he saved → held important gov't positions; established Jewish schools elsewhere; kept Jewish tradition alive (YV)