

Sample Informational Brainstorming Page: Day 2

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, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● sent to Lithuania to get info for Japan (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● had wife and three children (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● Age 38, born 1900 (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● came from middle-class family (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum) ● trained at school to become an expert on the Soviet Union (USHMM) ● fluent in Russian (USHMM) ● provided information to Japan about the German and Russian armies (USHMM)
Actions: What specific actions did they take to save lives?	● began issuing visas to those who asked even before Japanese gov't responded to his question about doing so (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● distributed visas even after Japanese gov't said not to (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● provided between 2100 and 3500 visas (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● stamped passports until the moment he left Lithuania (YV, "Chiune Sempo Sugihara") ● wrote the visas by hand (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● wrote visas for 4,500 people (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● did not refuse to write a visa for anyone who asked (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● continued writing visas even after gov't said to stop (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● continued writing visas from the train station while departing (YV, "Interview with Chiune . . .") ● gave visas regardless of whether people had the right travel papers (USHMM) ● "issued visas to 2,140 persons" (USHMM)

Motivations: What inspired their decision to take action?	● Jewish refugees asked for transport visas to leave Lithuania (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● groups of Jewish people were desperate and begged him for help (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● saw the people lined up in front of his house looking miserable with no other options (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● thousands of people came to his house to ask for visas (YV, "Interview with Chione . . .") ● ". . . the kind of sentiments anyone would have when he actually sees the refugees face-to-face, begging with tears in their eyes. He just cannot help but sympathize with them" (YV, "Sempo Sugihara explaining . . .") ● "The spirit of humanity, philanthropy . . . neighborly friendship . . ." (YV, "Sempo Sugihara explaining . . .") ● understood the urgency of the situation about why Jewish people needed to leave the country (USHMM)
Consequences: What risks did they face if they were caught?	● Japanese gov't warned him not to issue visas (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● knew he could lose his job upon returning to Japan. Was fired in 1946 (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● made living doing odd jobs after being fired (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara") ● was told not to issue visas because there were too many refugees trying to flee already (YV, "Interview with Chione . . .") ● was transferred to work in other countries (USHMM) ● was arrested and held by Soviet Union for three years (USHMM) ● had to leave his job; held a variety of other jobs afterward (USHMM)
Other questions:	● people he saved → held important gov't positions; established Jewish schools elsewhere; kept Jewish tradition alive (YV, "Chione Sempo Sugihara")