

Why didn't they just leave? Lesson Plan

Pass out to all participants the ***Why Didn't They Just Leave*** handout

Divide the participants into 2 groups - participants will use sticky notes.

- Group 1 will **brainstorm** at their tables and write down on the sticky notes what kind of paperwork or documents are needed to **emigrate** or leave the United States and go live in another country.
- Group 2 will brainstorm at their tables and write down on the sticky notes what kind of paperwork or documents are needed to **immigrate** or enter and live in another country.
- Groups will post on large Post It on the wall

Participants will then receive **Emigration and Immigration handouts**

- Again, divide into 2 groups
 - Group 1 looks at Emigration handout
 - Group 2 looks at Immigration handout
- Participants should circle the three items on the list they think would be most difficult to obtain for Emigration or Immigration (based on which category your group has) – do this individually and then discuss in small groups what everyone has circled
- Then have small groups share out to the larger group so all can hear what is necessary to both emigrate and immigrate

Watch ***The Path to Nazi Genocide*** clip

- *From Citizens to Outcasts, Chapter 3* (18:24-24:34)
- [The Path to Nazi Genocide](#)

Read aloud the **excerpts of Klaus Langer's diary** from *Salvaged Pages* as a whole group and discuss what we can know about Klaus Langer from the each excerpt.

Note the number of countries mentioned in each excerpt as well as the bureaucracy and paperwork involved.

- Group 1 will underline information regarding emigrating from Germany.
- Group 2 will star information regarding immigrating to another country.

Note Dec. 19, 1938 entry:

“Regarding the emigration of my parents, I have the following to report.”

- What does this tell us about Klaus' purpose in writing his diary?

- He is writing for others; wants people to know what happened; not just writing a personal diary or journal
- Diary entries aren't filled with a lot of emotion, mostly the facts – again, written as a timeline of events and attempts to emigrate; written for others to know

Watch *I'm Still Here* clip about Klaus Langer (Start at 2:18, stop at 6:02).

- [I'm Still Here](#)

Go to **Emigration Map at USHMM website** to see numbers of people who did emigrate and which countries they went to.

Question at end of lesson flips from “*Why didn't they just leave?*” to “*How were SO MANY ABLE to leave?*”

- [The Evian Conference Map Jewish Emigration from Germany, 1933-1940](#)