

# Assessing Responsibility Activity

Discuss with your students the term “responsibility”; define what the term “responsibility” means. Divide the students into groups and ask them to pretend they are judges and have to assess the “responsibility” of people’s actions during the Holocaust. Cut out the attached cards and pass them around so that each group has several cards. Explain that they are to work in their groups assessing the “responsibility” of the people listed on their group cards for what happened during the Holocaust. Together the group must categorize the “responsibility” of each person described on each card and sort it into one of the following categories:

1. Not Responsible
2. Minimally Responsible
3. Responsible
4. Very Responsible

After determining the level of “responsibility”, the groups should work to determine what penalty, if any, they will assign to each person on the card?

1. One of Hitler's direct subordinates, such as Heinrich Himmler or Joseph Goebbels	11. A person who voluntarily joined the Nazis in the 1930s
2. A German who voluntarily joined Hitler's special elite, the SS	12. A person who agreed to publicly take the Civil Servant Loyalty Oath (swearing eternal allegiance to Adolf Hitler in 1934)
3. A German industrialist who financially supported Hitler's rise to power and continued to support him verbally	13. A person who complied with the law excluding Jews from economic and social life
4. A judge who carried out Hitler's decrees for sterilization of the "mentally incompetent" and internment of "traitors"	14. A person who regularly, enthusiastically attended Hitler rallies
5. A doctor who participated in sterilization of Jews	15. A person who always respectfully gave the "Heil Hitler" salute
6. A worker in a plant making Zyklon B gas	16. A person who served as a concentration camp guard
7. The Pope, who made no public statement against Nazi policy	17. A person who turned the lever to allow the gas into the chambers
8. An industrialist who made enormous profits by producing Zyklon B gas	18. A driver of the trains that went to the concentration camps
9. A manufacturer who used concentration camp inmates as slave labor in his plants	19. A diplomat for the Nazi government
10. An American industrialist who helped arm Hitler in the 1930s	20. The American Government, which limited emigration of Jews to the U.S. in the 1930s

21. The "little guy" who claimed "he doesn't get involved in politics" and thus went about his business as quietly as he could in the Hitler regime	26. The policeman who helped round up escaping Jews
22. The soldier who carried out orders to roust Jews from their homes for "evacuation and resettlement"	27. A teacher who taught Nazi propaganda
23. The German couple who took up residence in a home evacuated by Jews	28. Children who joined the Hitler Youth
24. The non-Jews who took over a store just abandoned by Jews	29. Parents who sent or allowed their children to attend Hitler Youth meetings
25. The German who refused all pleas to participate in hiding and smuggling of Jews	30. The Protestant clergyman who gave to the Nazis lists of members of his congregation who were "non-Aryan."

<b>1. NOT RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>3. RESPONSIBLE</b>
<b>2. MINIMALLY RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>4. VERY RESPONSIBLE</b>