

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Final Summative Assessment for *Night* by Elie Wiesel

Instructions: The following is an excerpt from an official statement made by the United Nations following the atrocities of the Holocaust. Follow the instructions in each box to perform a close read of the text and form an understanding of its purpose and structure.

Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide

Adopted by Resolution 260 (III) A of the United Nations General Assembly on 9 December 1948.

The Contracting Parties,

Having considered the declaration made by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 96 (I) dated 11 December 1946 that genocide is a crime under international law, contrary to the spirit and aims of the United Nations and condemned by the civilized world; recognizing that at all periods of history genocide has inflicted great losses on humanity; and being convinced that, in order to liberate mankind from such an odious scourge, international cooperation is required; hereby agree as hereinafter provided.

Summarize this paragraph in your own words:

Why would the authors include this paragraph? What is its purpose?

Article 1

The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.

Article 2

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Article 3

The following acts shall be punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide.

Article 4

Persons committing genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3 shall be punished, whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals.

What 2 primary premises are defined in Article 1?

Explain the logic of Articles 1-3 being ordered in this way. How does each Article build off the prior?

What is the primary purpose of Articles 1-3?

How does Article 4 bring the ideas presented in Articles 1-3 to closure?

Why is Article 4 necessary?

Article 5

The Contracting Parties undertake to enact, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the necessary legislation to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and, in particular, to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3.

Article 6

Persons charged with genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3 shall be tried by a competent tribunal of the State in the territory of which the act was committed, or by such international penal tribunal as may have jurisdiction with respect to those Contracting Parties which shall have accepted its jurisdiction.

Article 7

Genocide and the other acts enumerated in Article 3 shall not be considered as political crimes for the purpose of extradition.

The Contracting Parties pledge themselves in such cases to grant extradition in accordance with their laws and treaties in force.

Article 8

Any Contracting Party may call upon the competent organs of the United Nations to take such action under the Charter of the United Nations as they consider appropriate for the prevention and suppression of acts of genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3.

Article 9

Disputes between the Contracting Parties relating to the interpretation, application or fulfillment of the present Convention, including those relating to the responsibility of a State for genocide or any of the other acts enumerated in Article 3, shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice at the request of any of the parties to the dispute.

Article 10

The present Convention, of which the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall bear the date of 9 December 1948.

Articles 5-9 all make reference to Article 3. Why is this so? Why is Article 3 essential to the premise of Articles 5-9?

What is the logical connection between Articles 5-6? Why are they in this order?

What do Articles 8-9 establish as the role of the United Nations and International Court of Justice?

What is the overall purpose of this document?

How does the structure and order of the document help achieve that purpose? Why or why not?

The 8 stages of Genocide by Gregory H. Stanton from the “8 Stages Briefing Paper” from Genocide Watch.

Read and answer the questions that follow.

The International Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide defines genocide in Article 2:

"In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

Acts of genocide –

During the Rwandan genocide, the U.S. State Department’s lawyers infamously directed U.S. diplomats to avoid use of the word genocide. Only “acts of genocide” were being committed, they said. It was a distinction without a difference.

The crime of genocide is defined by the Genocide Convention as "acts of genocide." It does not exist apart from those acts. A pattern of acts of genocide is frequently called "genocide" and evidence of such a pattern of ethnic, racial, or religious massacres is strong evidence of genocidal intent.

The Convention declares the following acts punishable:

- (a) Genocide;
- (b) Conspiracy to commit genocide;
- (c) Direct and public incitement to commit genocide;
- (d) Attempt to commit genocide;
- (e) Complicity in genocide."

Considering the author’s purpose, why is it logical to open directly referring to the Genocide Convention’s definition of “genocide” and clarify what acts are “punishable”?

What does Stanton mean, “It was a distinction without a difference.”? How does this statement lead into his purpose for the text?

Read the next paragraph and answer the questions:

The Genocide Convention is sometimes misinterpreted as requiring the intent to destroy **in whole** a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. Some genocides have fit that description, notably the Holocaust and Rwanda. But most do not. Most are intended to destroy only part of a group. The Genocide Convention specifically includes the intentional killing of **part** of a group as genocide. It reaffirms this definition when it includes as among the acts that constitute genocide "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or **in part**". Those who shrink from applying the term "genocide" usually ignore the "in part".

What is revealed about the occasion or context as to why the author feels the need to write this document?

Consider the sentence, "Those who shrink from applying the term "genocide" usually ignore the "in part". What does this reveal about the intended audience?

Continue reading and answering questions as they appear:

Intent –

Intent can be directly proven from statements or orders by the perpetrators. But more often, it must be deduced from the systematic pattern of their acts, a pattern that could only arise out of specific intent.

Criminal law distinguishes intent from motive. A murderer may have many motives -- gaining property or eliminating a rival for power. But his intent is determined by the purpose of his act: Did he purposely kill the victim? Genocidal intent is determined by the specific purpose of the act: Did the killer purposely kill the victim as part of a plan to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, at least in part?

The motive of the killer to take the victim's property or to politically dominate the victim's group does not remove genocidal intent if the victim is chosen because of his ethnic, national, racial, or religious group.

A plan for genocide doesn't need to be written out. An act of genocide may arise in a culture that considers members of another group less than human, where killing members of that group is not considered murder. This is the culture of impunity characteristic of genocidal societies. In Burundi, Tutsis who kill Hutus have seldom been convicted or even arrested. Massacres are ethnic, intended to destroy parts of the other ethnic group.

Leo Kuper calls such mass killings genocidal massacres. They are acts of genocide even if only a part of a group (the intellectuals, officers, leaders) is targeted.

THE GENOCIDAL PROCESS

Prevention of genocide requires a structural understanding of the genocidal process. Genocide has eight stages or operational processes. The first stages precede later stages, but continue to operate throughout the genocidal process. Each stage reinforces the others. A strategy to prevent genocide should attack each stage, each process. The eight stages of genocide are classification, symbolization, dehumanization, organization, polarization, preparation, extermination, and denial.

What does this paragraph reveal about the overall necessity and purpose of this document? How is this document intended to build on the principles of the U.N. Genocide Convention?

Why is it essential for the author to clarify the difference between “motive” and “intent”? Why is this essential for the purpose of the text?

ACTIVE READING TASK: As you read each of the 8 stages of genocide, highlight the key elements of each stage that distinguish it from the others.

1. CLASSIFICATION: All cultures have categories to distinguish people into “us and them” by ethnicity, race, religion, or nationality: German and Jew, Hutu and Tutsi. Bipolar societies that lack mixed categories, such as Rwanda and Burundi, are the most likely to have genocide.

2. SYMBOLIZATION: We give names or other symbols to the classifications. We name people “Jews” or “Gypsies”, or distinguish them by colors or dress; and apply the symbols to members of groups. Classification and symbolization are universally human and do not necessarily result in genocide unless they lead to the next stage, dehumanization. When combined with hatred, symbols may be forced upon unwilling members of pariah groups: the yellow star for Jews under Nazi rule, the blue scarf for people from the Eastern Zone in Khmer Rouge Cambodia.

3. DEHUMANIZATION: One group denies the humanity of the other group. Members of it are equated with animals, vermin, insects or diseases. Dehumanization overcomes the normal human revulsion against murder. At this stage, hate propaganda in print and on hate radios is used to vilify the victim group.

4. ORGANIZATION: Genocide is always organized, usually by the state, often using militias to provide deniability of state responsibility (the Janjaweed in Darfur.) Sometimes organization is informal (Hindu mobs led by local RSS militants) or decentralized (terrorist groups.) Special army units or militias are often trained and armed. Plans are made for genocidal killings.

5. POLARIZATION: Extremists drive the groups apart. Hate groups broadcast polarizing propaganda. Laws may forbid intermarriage or social interaction. Extremist terrorism targets moderates, intimidating and silencing the center. Moderates from the perpetrators’ own group are most able to stop genocide, so are the first to be arrested and killed.

6. PREPARATION: Victims are identified and separated out because of their ethnic or religious identity. Death lists are drawn up. Members of victim groups are forced to wear identifying symbols. Their property is expropriated. They are often segregated into ghettos, deported into concentration camps, or confined to a famine-struck region and starved.

7. EXTERMINATION begins, and quickly becomes the mass killing legally called “genocide.” It is “extermination” to the killers because they do not believe their victims to be fully human. When it is sponsored by the state, the armed forces often work with militias to do the killing. Sometimes the genocide results in revenge killings by groups against each other, creating the downward whirlpool-like cycle of bilateral genocide (as in Burundi).

8. DENIAL is the eighth stage that always follows genocide. It is among the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres. The perpetrators of genocide dig up the mass graves, burn the bodies, try to cover up the evidence and intimidate the witnesses. They deny that they committed any crimes, and often blame what happened on the victims. They block investigations of the crimes, and continue to govern until driven from power by force, when they flee into exile. There they remain with impunity, like Pol Pot or Idi Amin, unless they are captured and a tribunal is established to try them.

Final:

PROMPT: For the sake of this task, pretend that the Holocaust is happening after the United Nations has made their declaration at the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. You have been receiving letters from your friend Elie Wiesel concerning the horrible crimes committed by the Nazis against the Jews. Use the United Nations document and the 8 Stages of Genocide as the foundation for a persuasive essay/letter/presentation to the United Nations to intervene and stop the Nazis “acts of genocide.” Use evidences from both documents, other sources encountered throughout the unit, information gained from world history, and *Night* to form an argument that the Holocaust is indeed genocide and intervention and punishment is warranted according to the UN Convention.

Steps:

1. Review all texts for stages of genocide. Use graphic organizer to organize your evidence (2 days).
Due Wednesday, May 11, 2016
2. Draft your essay/letter/presentation (3 days).
Due Monday, May 16, 2016
Teacher signature _____
3. Ask your writing partner to review your draft (1 day).
Due Tuesday, May 17, 2016
4. Check your draft against the MHS English Department Seven Trait Rubric (1 day).
Due Wednesday, May 18, 2016
5. Revise your draft (2 days).
Due Friday, May 20, 2016
6. Submit your final draft with Final Summative Assessment packet, Stages of Genocide graphic organizer.
Due Monday, May 23, 2016

Note: As the final has the option of an essay, letter, or presentation, formatting will be graded based on type. Each submission must meet MLA formatting standards with in-text citations and a Works Cited page/slide.

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Stages of Genocide in various sources

Directions: Use this graphic organizer to organize evidence for the stages of genocide. You must include at least five pieces of evidence from various sources, three of which must be from *Night* by Elie Wiesel.

Stage of Genocide	Text/Page #	Evidence from text