



Liliesleaf

A PLACE *of* LIBERATION

Grade 10

Heritage Assignment

Developing a Heritage Site or a Memorial
in Your Community

ENGAGE



DISCOVER

REFLECT

Heritage Site | Museum | Restaurant | Archive | Conference Centre

Not only has Liliesleaf preserved and restored a historic site of significance, but through its exhibitions and archive it commemorates and records the courageous lives of some of South Africa's greatest leaders. Liliesleaf also acknowledges the actions and contributions that many people have made towards democracy in South Africa.

Finding out more about the history of your community can be a fun and meaningful exercise. In this assignment you are going to create a strategy for developing a heritage site in your community.

Work in groups of four or five and follow the steps outlined below.

STEP 1

Researching Your Community

You need to decide on a person, group, place or event in your community that has not yet been honoured or commemorated in a heritage site or memorial.

Before making your decision, make a list of all heritage sites and memorials that already exist in your area.

Then make a list of all the interesting stories about the past that are still being told in your community or the area that you live in. What are the kinds of things you have heard? Who and what would you like to know more about?

Make a list of the questions that you will use to find out more about your community's past. Visit local libraries, archives, universities or the Internet to try and find other written (newspaper articles, pamphlets etc.) or visual (photographs, maps etc.) sources of information.

When conducting research you should not rely on only one source. Use different sources to check your information.

STEP 2

Conduct Interviews

Now decide who you are going to interview to get the information you need. These may be older members of the community or experts in the history, language, architecture and environment of your community. You may even interview existing community heroes.

How will you record and preserve your information?

STEP 3

Choose Your Focus

Now choose which person, group, place or event you want to focus on. Your choice could be based on what is interesting, what is important or what you feel has been neglected.

STEP 4

Choose the Location

Identify the location of your heritage site or memorial. You could do something in your school, at someone's home, on the site of a sympathetic organisation or business.

You could also use some public space like a park, a town hall or an empty wall.

STEP 5

Scoping

Decide what message is to be conveyed through the heritage site or memorial you are going to create.

Decide what medium you are going to use. Will it be temporary or permanent? Think about the following possibilities:

- mural
- mosaic
- plaque on a wall
- dedication of a public bench statue
- garden of remembrance
- a commemorative path
- a once-off performance

Find out if there are local artists, artisans or crafters who would be prepared to collaborate on ideas for the design.

Consider how this project is to be funded. Will the class or school raise the funds? Are there local companies who would be prepared to sponsor such a venture? What other options are there?

What materials will be used for the making of the memorial or heritage site? How will the materials be sourced?

Will the artists alone be involved in the making of this heritage site / memorial or will it be built in a more collaborative way that involves other members of the community?

Everyone involved should meet and come to an agreement on what will be done, what they need to do it and when they will be finished.

STEP 6

Developing the Proposal

Whatever location you choose, you will need to get permission to go ahead with the development of the site. To get permission you will need to write a proposal. Your proposal should explain your reasons for the development and give a broad idea of what you are going to do.

Before presenting the proposal to the owners of the location you have chosen, share it with as many people as you can and get their feedback.

Listen carefully to any suggestions and concerns. Use this feedback to develop the proposal further.

STEP 7

Getting Permission

Find out who owns the location of the site and how to get permission to use it. Take your proposal to them.

Do not begin any physical work until you have got written permission.

If you intend actually constructing your memorial or heritage site then the next steps will help you.

STEP 8

Developing the Heritage Site or Memorial

Now you must put your plan into action. It is always a good idea to appoint a project manager. This person will keep track of what everyone is doing. They will motivate everyone involved and make sure that people meet their deadlines.

Document the process of developing the site with photographs or on DVD. This is so that you have material for a future exhibition, for future proposals or to share with the press.

STEP 9

Launching the Heritage Site or Memorial

When the site is nearing completion, discuss and decide on a date for the launch.

- Who will be involved in organising the launch?
- Who will be invited to the launch? How will they be invited? Who will speak at the launch?
- Who needs to be thanked for their contribution?
- Will there be some kind of performance?