Words, Walls, Actions

Examine how antisemitism targets people, property, and institutions.

TOT.C.11.3 "Examine how antisemitism may be expressed as hatred toward Jewish people, rhetorical, and physical manifestations directed toward a person, their property, or Jewish community institutions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each antisemitic action in the passage. Beside each one, write S for speech, D for property damage, or P for physical contact to show how it was expressed.

A Neighborhood Report

1 At a neighborhood meeting about a new bus stop, a resident disagreed with the proposed location and gave reasons about traffic. Later, another speaker pointed at Leah, a Jewish student attending with her family, and said Jewish neighbors were not welcome in the area. The speaker also blamed all Jewish residents for the bus plan, although residents had different views on it. The first comment challenged a public decision; the second targeted people because they were Jewish. Leah's family left early. Speech can be an antisemitic act even when no one touches a person or damages a building.

2 Two days later, someone painted the same exclusionary message on the doors of the neighborhood synagogue. The doors were part of the congregation's property, and the message singled out a Jewish institution. Volunteers removed the paint, but the congregation had to pay for cleaning and change the schedule of an evening gathering. On another day, a person shoved Leah while telling her to leave because she was Jewish. This was a physical attack on a person, not merely an argument about the bus stop. The incidents differed in form, but each targeted Jewish people or a place where they gather.

3 A community report described the words at the meeting, the damage to the synagogue, and the shove as related incidents. It did not assume that the same person committed them, because the evidence did not show that. The report also kept the traffic objection separate from antisemitism: objecting to a bus stop, without hostility toward Jewish people, is not the same as blaming or excluding Jews. By naming both the action and its target, the report showed how antisemitism can appear in speech, damage to property, or physical violence. Clear descriptions helped residents understand what happened without turning uncertainty into a claim of fact.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why does the passage treat the traffic objection differently from the second speaker's comments?

2. How did the message on the synagogue doors target both property and a Jewish institution?

3. What made the shove an antisemitic physical attack rather than an argument about the bus stop?

4. Why did the report describe the incidents as related without saying that one person committed all of them?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a Jewish student group is preparing for a school cultural fair. In four or five sentences, describe one antisemitic statement and one antisemitic action involving property or physical contact, name their targets, explain why each is antisemitic, and contrast them with a disagreement that is not antisemitic.

ANSWER KEY

Words, Walls, Actions

HIGH SCHOOL · TOT.C.11.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each antisemitic action in the passage. Beside each one, write S for speech, D for property damage, or P for physical contact to show how it was expressed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why does the passage treat the traffic objection differently from the second speaker's comments?	**The traffic objection challenged the bus stop location. The second speaker excluded Jewish neighbors and blamed all Jewish residents because they were Jewish.**
2	How did the message on the synagogue doors target both property and a Jewish institution?	**Painting the message damaged the congregation's doors, and placing it on a synagogue singled out a Jewish institution.**
3	What made the shove an antisemitic physical attack rather than an argument about the bus stop?	**A person shoved Leah and told her to leave because she was Jewish.**
4	Why did the report describe the incidents as related without saying that one person committed all of them?	**Each incident targeted Jewish people or a Jewish institution, but the evidence did not show that the same person committed them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At the school cultural fair, someone told Miriam that Jewish students should not be allowed to host a booth. That statement targeted Miriam and other Jewish students because of their identity, so it was antisemitic speech. Later, someone tore down the Jewish student club's display because it announced a Jewish holiday, physically damaging the club's property. A student who suggested moving every booth to the gym because the hallway was crowded disagreed about space, not about Jewish people.

Accept answers that identify the action, its Jewish target, and the form it takes. For Part 3, the ordinary disagreement must not express hostility toward Jewish people.