

What is the value of these stories?

The Value: The value of these stories comes from the goal of making human connections with survivors. Although many of the people giving these video testimonials will soon pass due to time, having a recorded version of their experience allows generations of people to watch and learn about said experiences in a way that will reach them in a more impactful way. For example, students can read books and statistics about the holocaust and how it impacted the survivors, but that is a very different learning experience to actually being able to see the tears of the victims and hear the sound of their voice break. In just a few short years, there will be no eye witnesses to the holocaust, but by having survivors recall their memories we gain the ability to pass on the true impact in a way that will stick with watchers for the rest of their lives and give them insight and understanding beyond anything they could have learned otherwise.

My response: Watching these testimonies undoubtedly made me sad and empathic about the stories being told, but they also made me grateful that I was able to hear them. As a great granddaughter of two holocaust survivors, I never got to hear about their experiences because they had already passed before I was born. As we began this project I started doing some research to try and find some more details about them, but unfortunately there wasn't any information apart from a few recollections of stories told before they passed. It's really tragic to know that their stories will be lost to time, which is why these testimonies are so impactful to me.