

## The Things They Carried: A Refugee Project

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### Abstract

In the spirit of “Never Again,” I created a lesson plan centering around the current-day refugee crisis. This lesson incorporates both learning and emotions to convey not only needed information for the curriculum, but to instill a sense of empathy and sympathy in students.

This project is a combination of digital, blended, and art-based learning. The premise, although simple, is powerful. Working in collaborative groups, students choose a refugee from a list I provide. The students research their refugee, and write a short biography using MLA format. Students then record their refugee’s biography and embed the recording on a QR Code. Lastly, using old suitcases, the student groups create a visual representation of their refugee. There are no parameters other than the suitcase must represent their refugee in some way.

In the past, some groups depicted a specific scene from their refugee’s life, and some groups were more abstract. The QR codes are placed inside each suitcase- the idea being a person can listen to the refugee’s story (as told by the students) while looking at the artwork. The entire project culminates with individual students using social media to share their suitcases, and their personal thoughts on the refugee crisis. This presentation includes step-by-step instructions to help your students create a meaningful project including: Rubrics, Checklists, and assessments.

**Keywords:** Global Studies, Refugees, Digital Technology, Blended Learning