



Telephone Archive Game



Credits:

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network
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Just the Facts: A Primary Source Debate **Teacher Guide**

Concepts and Competencies Covered:

- *Information Literacy:* Basic introduction to transmission of information and reliability in sources.

Age Range: Elementary

Time Required: 10-15 minutes depending on the size of the class.

Prior Knowledge or Skills Required:

- None.

Instructions:

Have your students sit or stand in a circle. So that no one else can see, show the first student a photograph hidden in a box. The older the photograph the better! This will also work better if the photograph shows some sort of action or event. Give the student 1 minute to study the photograph or lesser time to make it more challenging. Ask the student to compose a 1-2 sentence description of the photograph and whisper it to the next student in line. Students will continue passing the description along until the last person repeats out loud the first thing they heard. If all goes well, you have provided your students with an analogy of how data can be lost as it is passed down from narrative to narrative.

Once the game is over, the students should be brought into a discussion on the concept of reliability of sources. Introduce key concepts such as authenticity, reliability and bias by drawing examples from the game.