

Unit 6 Memory is a Verb

II Our Tragedies

Essential Questions

- *Who makes the decisions about creating memorials?*
- *When is the best time to memorialize, immediately or after time goes by?*
- *What are the most effective memorials?*
- *How do memorials affect people who have no personal connections to the traumatic event?*
- *Can we keep the past alive without becoming its prisoners?*
- *Can we forget that past without risking its future replication?*

Reflect on examples of local, national and global tragedies and the effort to heal from the trauma (revisit notes from Unit 1 Lesson II Introduction to Human Rights). Write your ideas in the space below and be prepared to discuss in class.

1. Make a list of memorials created in honor of the disappeared or deceased and discuss the variety of materials used to create these memorials.
2. Are there examples of controversy or conflict over the creation of memorials? Discuss their effectiveness and the emotions they evoke.
3. Are some memorials more effective than others?
4. Do you think memorials can be effective even if the public doesn't have a personal connection to the traumatic event?

Watch *White Walls Say Nothing* <http://youtu.be/FL0OXgwZw38> and be prepared to discuss the following quotation about activist art:

"In response to the Dirty War, the environment of fear, and lack of free speech, street art, "became a public voice, and in the decades that followed, it has continued to be part of an activist culture of art."