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Part 1: The Path to War in Images and Film (5 50-minute sessions)

Students discuss how filmmakers conduct research to create accurate historical representations. Students create visual timelines of the interwar period between World Wars I and II by analyzing and synthesizing primary and secondary source materials.

Activity 1A: An Introduction to World War II

1A.1: <i>Analyzing Historical Detail</i>	Students watch a film clip set during World War II and analyze the historical details used to accurately portray the time period. Students also learn about the unit project.
1A.2: <i>The Interwar Years: Creating a Visual Timeline</i>	Students read about the period between World War I and World War II and identify key events that took place during the interwar years. Students work in teams to create a visual timeline of the events leading up to World War II.

Activity 1B: The Aftermath of World War I

Student teams analyze three primary source images that provide a window into the aftermath of World War I. In the process, students learn how events following World War I may have contributed to the onset of World War II.

Activity 1C: Picture This

1C.1: <i>The Great Depression in Europe</i>	Students read about how the Great Depression contributed to the onset of World War II in 1939.
1C.2: <i>Looking at Ideas in Images</i>	Students analyze additional images from the years leading up to World War II. They match quotations with images and deepen their awareness of how words and images can represent events in history.
1C.3: <i>Creating a Scene from Images</i>	Student teams act out scenes developed from and inspired by the images they analyzed.
1C.4: <i>Causes of World War II</i>	Student teams finalize their visual timelines, present them to the class, and revise them based on feedback. The class discusses the causes of World War II, and students write a short summary of the causes of the war.

Part 2: Creating the Story (5 50-minute sessions)

Student teams create written storyboards that demonstrate their understanding of the causes of World War II, and present their storyboards to the class.

Activity 2A: Depicting a Scene

Student teams choose an event on their visual timelines, conduct additional research as needed, and describe a scene from a story based on the event.

Activity 2B: Creating a Storyboard: One Girl's Story

Students read a first-person account of a young woman's coming of age in Germany in the 1930s. As practice for their team storyboards, the class works together to create a written storyboard for a scene from a film about the girl's story.

Activity 2C: Creating a Written Storyboard

Student teams create their written storyboards for a film scene set during an event leading to World War II, and then present their storyboards to the class. Students assess their work on the project as both individuals and team members.