Visas and Valiance
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:

Berman- Clapsaddle, “Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara - Righteous Among the Nations,” Yad Vashem
This is a Yad Vashem lesson plan that uses quotes from August 1940, specifically the dialogue
between the Jews and Sugihara. These quotes allowed us to further personalize the story,
showing the true depth and value of Sugihara’s visas. Our mission throughout our research,
throughout creating the board and choosing quotes, was to not forget the true value of history.
We didn’t want to be lost in the sea of facts and numbers our world tells us is so important, we
instead anchored ourselves to specific people, stories, and quotes to remind ourselves of why
Sugihara is worth remembering. The people who waited outside the gates, who we quoted, show
the value of Sugihara’s choice.

“Chiune Sugihara Remembered by Jewish Survivors,” Hirameki, 22 October 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTrDeXjd0h4> Apr. 2018
Reading the testimonies of those grateful to Sugihara is emotionally impactful, but watching
faces of people as they recount their lives, as they remember that all they’ve done since 1940 is
in debt to this diplomat, shows the value of history. This montage of different Sugihara survivors
is used in our media to connect the audience in perhaps the most personal way possible. Some
things in life must be done in person. To convey the value of an event or choice, facial
expressions can be most powerful. While media is not required, we wanted to take advantage of
this opportunity to connect our audience to the people involved, to show the absolute gratitude
and respect they gave to him.

“In Conference With The King,” The Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh, 8 May 1904.
<https://basic.newspapers.com/image/141843697/?terms=Jacob+Schiff+Japan>. May
2018.
“In Conference With The King,” is a newspaper article that was published during the Russo-
Japanese war. The Russo- Japanese war impacted Sugihara’s cultural perspective of the world,
therefore impacting his mindset in life. To concisely convey information, we used primary
sources from the time, as to give representation as to the order of events as well. This newspaper
accurately describes the worldwide impact of the flotation of bonds made, further accentuating
the impact on Japan and Sugihara.

Goldberg, Cary “The Honors Come Late For a Japanese Schindler; A Month of Tribute to Savior
-tribute-savior-thousands.html> Apr. 2018
Published in 1995, this newspaper article contains primary quotes from different Sugihara
survivors. Reading through the blessings and thank yous, through the statements of those
realizing that they nor their families would be there if it weren't for Sugihara, show Sugihara’s
legacy of lives, his emotional impact as well as physical. Because of Chiune Sugihara, 40,000
people are alive that shouldn’t be according to the reality of the Holocaust. Yet they are alive, telling their stories, and in turn his story, because of his sacrifice. These people are why Sugihara’s tale is worth remembering in the wide span of history.

“Hitler Armies Reported To Have Smashed Eight Miles Across Lithuania To Riga”, 24 June 1941,
Times Herald, Olean, New York, Newspapers
<http://go.newspapers.com/results.php?query=Hitler+Armies+Reported+To+Have+Smas hed+Eighty+Miles+Across+Lithuania+To+Riga&s_place=New+York&s_date_field=June+24+1941> Mar. 2018
As German troops moved across Poland to Lithuania, Jews fled; seeing refuge. Those who traveled to Sugihara were rewarded with passage to Japan. This newspaper connected the small, detailed story of Chiune Sugihara, to the larger picture of WWII. The decisions of the Axis powers, specifically Germany's, affected so many people, allowing for the smaller stories to take shape.

This interview with Sugihara allowed for us, as researchers, to not only understand Sugihara and how he personally re-accounted that August, but also to fully understand the order of events. As the interview is conducted directly with Sugihara, a complex and private connection is made between Sugihara and the audience. To bring this connection to our audience, we used quotes from this consistently throughout the board.

“The Leo Arnfeld papers consist of biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, and a satirical pamphlet documenting the Arnfeld family in Warsaw, Sara and Leo Arnfeld in the Warsaw ghetto, Chaim Arnfeld in Vilnius, Kobe, and Shanghai, and Leo Arnfeld's postwar life in Munich.” 1940, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collection, Gift of Leo Arnfeld <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn73078#?c=0&m=0&s=0&cv=0&xywh=-63%2C-56%2C1253%2C798> Mar. 2018
The Leo Arnfeld papers consists of the visa required to travel to Japan, as well as other documents one needed to find security away from WWII. To us, they told the story of a man who ran to Sugihara, grasping for help, and because of the choice Sugihara made, was able to live his life. We’ve tried to remember, to understand in the smallest way, the gravity and value of Sugihara’s actions. By anchoring our minds to a person, knowing his life, seeing evidence of it, we established a connection. These papers are used in the visa we made, to help make this same connection from Sugihara to our audience.
<http://faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/~cfm754/with_god's_help.pdf> Feb. 2018
This source, a journal by a man to whom Chinue Sugihara issued a visa, contains the story about his journey to Sugihara as a young man, and how his brief encounter with Sugihara forever affected his life. It allowed us to see the personal impact Sugihara had on a life, examine how some heard of the visas, the actions taken to get to Sugihara, as well as what the later journey meant for those who obtained visas. Using a quotation specifically from page 41, in a subsection called Lithuania, dated January 1, 1940, through May 18, 1941, we presented the fact that Sugihara did indeed change lives, concluding that he was a true humanitarian.

The Kamikazes faced the expectation to carry out the ultimate sacrifice following the Bushido code. They were used as suicide weapons, their sacrifice glorified by government and society. Without the values of the Bushido code being so deeply immersed in their daily lives, this call of action would not have been as widely accepted. Understanding the Kamikazes, and how willing they were to ‘serve their country’, proved to us how much Sugihara compromised socially when he made the choice to issue the visas, therefor disobeying his country.

Throughout Sugihara’s life, he and his family faced the consequences of his choice to issue the visas. One of the most prominent and immediate effects ensuing 1940, after Sugihara returned to Japan, is when he was forced to retire as a diplomat. This moment adds integrity to the statement that Sugihara compromised much in his sacrifice. Sugihara truly faced conflict, resolving it with a compromise at his and his family’s payment.

By fear and dehumanizing others, the Nazis gained their power, setting the stage for the Holocaust and concentration camps. This Rabbi lived during this moment, he experiences first hand what is meant to live in the state of terror, without hope, with no idea what will happen to you next. We used his memoir to connect ourselves, in some small way, to those persecuted. We found that in order to appreciate what Sugihara did, we had to encounter those humiliated. Jews
who fled to Sugihara, the individual person and family, fled from a message of hate. Their fear so intense as to set them seeking for a way to leave everything they knew behind. Chiune Sugihara saved them from this torture, and ultimately from the deaths.

Ruth Nevo, “Chiune Sugihara Remembered by Jewish Survivors,” Hirameki, 22 October 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTrDeXjd0h4> Apr. 2018
Ruth Nevo provided us with an interview describing Sugihara from her point of view, as well as her journey to Sugihara. Not only were we able to further understand the way and how the Jews sought Sugihara, but we gained another personal opinion. From this source, we gathered that Sugihara, unlike many others during the Holocaust, was one of the rare people who chose to compromise what he wanted, while not seeing any personal gain. This source corroborates with many others, supporting the conclusion that Sugihara embodies the values of sacrifice, of compromise, in the way he lived his life before, after and certainly during 1940.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/sugihara/readings/ganor.html> Apr. 2018
History is overwhelming, besides the countless events and people involved, the sheer number of facts, such as historical dates, is a wallow of information we tend to walk circles in. To cement ourselves to what we believe to truly be valuable in history, we examined what Sugihara’s actions meant to individual people. Solly Ganor was a young boy during Sugihara’ stay in Lithuania, who later received a visa with his cousins. Sugihara visited Ganor’s family often, shopping in their store. Ganor’s perspective of Sugihara, one that is emotionally personal, shows not only how some used the visa, but also how Sugihara conducted himself around others.

“This is a telegraph directive which was sent to the consulate in Berlin… regarding the issuance of visas to refugees,” 23 July 1940, The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall: Ministry of Foreign Affairs telegram
<http://www.sugihara-museum.jp/about/official_telegram_en.html> Mar. 2018
In history, there are always the moments that organizes the next action, soon these smaller moments lead to the lager events, the ones we learn about in history class. This moment, this telegraph to Sugihara, provided the circumstances where Sugihara could ignore the telegraph, or follow his country’s order in following the Bushido code. It’s an essential moment in Sugihara’s history, the history of the 10,000 Jews, which lead to the compromises Sugihara made.

“A Travel certificate for Zorach Warhaftig with a Japanese transit visa signed by Sugihara…” August 1940, The Righteous Among The Nations, Yad Vashem
<http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/righteousName.html?language=en&itemId=4017719 Apr. 2018>
When researching Sugihara, looking at documents from that time period, especially the visas, placed us in the moment. We were able to see the details that were required for each visa, as well
examine the differences in each document; showing the stories and routes of the individual people who traveled to Sugihara. This visa, given to a man named Warhaftig and his family, showed the story of their travels to a land without the war. His visa, unlike others, shows order. Most visas signed by Sugihara were simple scraps of paper, they provide the documented insight that proved these Jews lived in chaos, while Chiune Sugihara provided them a route to a reality where they could live their lives.

This Political Cartoon gave a symbolic representation to the words rival imperial ambitions, words used to describe the Russo- Japanese War. Throughout our journey creating this exhibit, we constantly looked for ways to describe an event or idea in the simplest way, using this cartoon made the concept of the Russo War more engaging and easier to tie into Sugihara’s story, all the while taking up less space.

"Why My Husband Helped the Jews: Yukiko Sugihara” Yukiko Sugihara, Facing History and Ourselves. June 20, 2001
This interview gave further insight into Sugihara’s and his family’s life during the month of August. It allowed us to see what his discerning mind and how those most important to him interpreted and supported his actions. We used this source for direct quotations to support our argument that Sugihara sacrificed the safety of himself and his family, and to better develop our personal understanding of Sugihara.

Photos:

During the Russo-Japanese war, from 1904-1905, Japan began to emerge as a world power, struggling to stay afloat in financial issues. Japan was then backed by loans from Jacob Schiff, the foremost Jewish banker and philanthropist of his day, who floated bonds on Wall Street that yielded $200 million, about half of Japan’s expenditures for the war. This picture helped us to put a face to the name of Jacob Schiff, understanding who he was and how he impacted Japan’s perspective of Jews, further impacting Chinue Sugihara’s perspective, and all Japan’s mindset.

“Chiune Sugihara poses with a group of people at the railroad station in Kaunas on the occasion of the departure of Polish army lieutenant Stanislaw Kaspick and his wife, Stella Kominskaya.” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Stella Kaminska-Kuza, 1940 <collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1071672> Mar. 2018
The few who’ve heard of Chinue Sugihara are most likely to first know of his actions at the railroad station in Kaunas. There, while Sugihara was leaving for Japan, he continued to hastily write visas for those who asked. This photo was taken at the same railroad station. We used this
photo to develop our knowledge of Sugihara, and we found that it conveyed the connection Sugihara instantaneously held with the people he met.

This intimate photo of Chinue Sugihara, standing close to his family, added evidence to the statement that Sugihara believed in the values in the Bushido code, which conclude that family is important in a man’s life, second only to his country. This explains why Sugihara’s choice, to write the visas, balanced with the way he was raised versed his humanitarian thoughts, and ultimately why the costly decision held more weight then what was noticeable.

“Chiune Sugihara stands on the balcony of his home in Kama Kura, Japan”, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Julie Baskes, 1985 October 19 <[https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1181232> Feb. 2018
Photographs take us back in time, connect us to people a world away. This particular photo, of Sugihara in his later years, affirms our conclusion that Sugihara lived his life humbly. While some people seek out those who ‘owe them’, Sugihara firmly believed that they owed him nothing. That simply because they were humans, creations of God, he instead owed them their lives as equals to his own. He modestly accepted credit from the few who gave it to him, presenting himself as just a man. Using this photo to conclude this point, we were also able to add resolution to Sugihara’s story in our short-term subsection.

“Chiune Sugihara as a young man, wearing formal Japanese attire with family crest”, Visas for Life Foundation, Sugihara Collection, circa. 1920 <http://www.visasforlife.org/sugihara.html> Feb. 2018
As apart of our background research we looked into the way Sugihara was raised, as it imprinted his mindset; influencing his choices. As his mother was raised him in the teachings of the Bushido code, she came from a long line of Samurai. We wanted to represent these teachings, emphasizing the fact that Sugihara went against these teachings in his later years. We chose a photo from Sugihara’s school, when he first began to make choices for himself during his education.

The Jews, during 1939-1940, did not widely know about the intentions of concentration camps, but they did fully understand the rumors of horrific acts performed by the Germans. On July 31, days before Sugihara began to issue visas, Jewish men were forced to lay down while German Policemen beat them they made a Rabbi pray over them. These dehumanizing actions’ are what
placed the value in Sugihara’s visas, the fact that they were literally looking for a way to live, and Sugihara provided them with one.

“A group of German soldiers and civilians look on as a Jewish man is forced to cut the beard of another in Tomaszow Mazowiecki,” September-October 1939, courtesy of Instytut Pamieci Narodowej, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa14506> Apr. 2018

The abhorrent actions of Nazi Germany during WWII evoked the deepest sense of fear into Jewish hearts early on. Actions, such as the humiliating and common cutting of Jewish beards, were used to control. Photos like this, that capture the emotions from the moment, reminded us to constantly seek the history, find what this truly meant to people, so often we forget those involved when we learn. This photo told us why Sugihara’s choice to issue the visas was so valuable, it allowed people to escape this reality.

“Group image of Jewish refugees in Kobe, Japan, who escaped from Europe with visas signed by Chiune Sugihara”, October 1940 - August 1941, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1072006> Mar. 2018

Again, we tried to make a human connection throughout time, from the fleeing refugees to us in the present day. This particular picture is of a family, mothers with their children, siblings together only because of Sugihara’s sacrifice. Most of us can begin to sympathize with these people when we see their families, what they held value in, because somehow it’s similar to us decades later.


Often, history is lost in facts and dates. It becomes easy to desensitize ourselves, losing the true value, the personal stories and lives touched. Without the people, those who came out stronger, history would fall into a void without meaning. During our research, we didn’t want to be lost in the outer image, so we often looked at personal stories, people who were alive because of Sugihara. This photo reminded us of the real story, we became better researchers in credit to it and others like it, and further connected to August 1940. All of the people in this group were alive due to Sugihara, they are the true history, the meaning, of what Sugihara did.


This photo provided background information about Poland and Lithuania in WWII. Specifically the invasion of Poland, which consequently affected the population of Jews there. Most of the Jews Sugihara constituted visas for were from Poland, fleeing the Nazis. It helped us to better understand what was going on outside of Lithuania, as well as what people with an outside or opposing view were experiencing. History isn’t only facts and numbers, such as Sugihara saved around 10,000 lives, but also the details. The people coming him were trying to escape the fate of untimely death and certain torture. By focusing on an overall picture, of people coming to
Sugihara, we were later able to remember why they came, impacting us and showing the true value of Sugihara’s choice.

“Jews fall into a trench as the Einsatzgruppen, a German kill squad, ruthlessly murders the fleeing Jews in Poland”, 2 November 1941, World War II Day by Day, Scanning World War II <http://www.scanningwwii.com/cgi-bin/wwii.cgi?page=wwii-day-by-day&day=1102> Mar. 2018

World War II is filled with horrors, and for those of us who’ve lived peaceful lives this concept is unimaginable, we desensitize ourselves to it. By reconnecting to smaller events, to individual people, communities, and stories, it becomes easier to find the part of history that is often lost. While we knew, as a group, that we could never fathom or apprehend what this photo really means, what these people experienced, it brings us one step closer to being there, to bringing the meaning of what Sugihara did to the audience too.


This photo is a time machine, taking the viewer back to 1940, showing them the Jews who came to Sugihara. This photo showed the desperation of those awaiting Sugihara’s answer, this wasn’t a game or a desire, but a need, the literal difference between life and death for them. We found this photo personal, reminding us of the ever pressing importance, the validity and reality of the situation. We designed our board off of this photo, the anxious waiting crowd, because of our deep emotions connected to the photo.

Kikuchi, Setsuko, “Chiune Sugihara and His Wife Yukiko Pose in Front of the Gate to a Park in Prague. The Posted Sign Reads, ‘Jews Not Allowed’ in German. However the Lower Line in Czech Reads ‘Jews Allowed’. Someone has covered or scratched out the ‘No’ in the Czech Line.” The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 1940 - 1941, courtesy of Hiroki Sugihara <https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/pa1071692> Feb. 2018

Chinue Sugihara and his wife, Yukiko Sugihara, stood outside a park in Praha, not knowing the photo they were about to take would perfectly embody Sugihara and the month of August in 1940. The world around them, their government, the city they lived in, even the safety of their family, demanded that they conform to the ‘new mindset’ of Fascism. Sugihara faced a common choice that held much more gravity and importance, he ignored society, choosing to obey a humanitarian mindset.

“The most feared weapon of the Japanese Air Force in the Second World War”, Đại Biểu Nhân
While studying and preparing for the process of making our exhibit, we found that our understanding and knowledge of background information, and the overall ideas of WWII, were critical. If we wanted to thoroughly understand Sugihara, we needed to understand his culture and society. This source, an article showing the values of the Kamikazes, allowed us to analyze the indirect connections between the Kamikaze beliefs and the Bushido code. Not only was the Bushido code rich in society, but so valued to some Japanese they were willing to die for its principles. Yet, Sugihara chose to ignore this beckon, this wave of society, adding to the value of his compromise. We used a photo from this source to describe this connection.


Jacob Schiff led the culture of Japan into a state of respect towards the Jews. Schiff’s story, in itself, could be an entire National History Day project, as to succinctly lay the foundation of the story, while also continuing to keep the board interesting and personal, we used photos of the people involved. This portrait of Schiff allowed us to see his personality, his smile and professional attire provides the audiences with a visual that captured his essence.


This photo of Mr. Ganor allowed to us see him through time, at an age closer to when Sugihara issued him a visa, saving his life. Presenting this photo, on top of a quote from Ganor later in his life, lets the audience see how Sugihara appeared to those around him. It shows Sugihara’s gentle spirit that cared for others. Mr. Ganor’s story also provided insight into the daily life in Lithuania before and after the invasion of Poland, showing us the complete differences between the two societally and personally in people’s lives.


Chiune Sugihara’s story starts with his family. It was them who laid the foundation of Sugihara’s mind. Understanding his past, the events that shaped his life and therefore his mindset, are just as important and understanding what happened in August 1940. We used this photo to commemorate when Sugihara chose to pursue his own dream, instead of his father’s will. It
shows how Sugihara’s decision to issue the visas was him being true to himself, not other influences such as pressure from the those who sought the visas.

“The Sugihara family departs by train from Kaunas to Berlin.” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, courtesy of Hiroki Sugihara, 1940 September 04

As Sugihara boarded the train, after having been ordered to travel home, a few number of families approached Sugihara and his family. They hardly had to ask before he wrote them visas, right there on the platform. It is said by those who were present that he even wrote visas as the train departed, throwing them out of the window to those below. This picture equipped us with an illustration, allowing us to see the extremeness of Sugihara’s actions, what that truly meant for him, concluding the month of August.

“The Sugihara residence and consular offices in Kaunas, where thousands of people sought refuge,” August 1940, Visas for Life

Chiune Sugihara, his wife, and kids never openly spoke about the visas unless directly asked. Sugihara himself never sought credit or reached out to those he issued a visa to, instead he humbly returned home. With limited primary sources, such as later accounts, from the Sugiharas, and even fewer photos during August 1940, we included most of what we found. This photo, a picture of Sugihara with his family, is used as a reminder that Sugihara was not alone in his choice to sign the visas, nor was he alone in facing the consequences.

“Yukiko Sugihara and Husband,” July 1940, Visas for Life

Chiune Sugihara’s relationship with his family exemplified the life he led and the morals he upheld. When debating whether or not to issue the visas he consulted his wife, Yukiko Sugihara, showing their devoted and trusting relationship. We used this photo to provide a visual representation of their connection, furthering our statement that when Sugihara issued the visas he not only risked his societal status and job, but the safety of the family he cared deeply about.

Secondary Sources:


This short article helped us develop our understanding of the culture and values of Japanese society, therefore further understanding Chinue Sugihara. Our minds hold the imprint of our parents and their values, as Sugihara was raised in the following of the Bushido code, the morals of this society affected him even in August of 1940. Sugihara chose to forgo these imprints, the
values of his culture, to soothe the outcry of need. This key element supported our conclusion that Sugihara faced deep conflict in his own cultural upbring.

“Chiune Sugihara,” Holocaust Encyclopedia, Holocaust Memorial Museum
This secondary source provided a historian’s analytical view on Sugihara and his story. We relied on this source, and others like it, to connect primary sources and documents to the audience. This source also helped build our foundational knowledge of Sugihara. Provided on this website was links to other secondary and primary sources, such as video interviews of those saved by Sugihara, furthering our connection to the time and place.

The Chiune Sugihara Memorial Hall, “As a Diplomat,”
<http://www.sugihara-museum.jp/about/index_en.html> May. 2018
This secondary source provided us with photos, quotes, and historical analysis that we used throughout our exhibit to provide the conscience and emotional descriptions we needed to correctly display the story of Chiune Sugihara. It referred us to primary sources and other websites we were able to use in our researching, while constantly showing historically accurate facts. The clear and detailed timeline allowed us to verify which events occurred, and in what order, providing us the certainly we displayed the correct information.

We began our research of Sugihara desperately looking for any factual sources. As his story isn’t widely known, or accounted for, we found primary sources scarce and secondary sources containing bias without factual background. This timeline, our first reliable source, contained documented events and accounts, much to our pleasure. We also found multiple keywords, from the timeline, that we were able to use while searching for primary sources. Embedded in the timeline were subtopics that applied to our topic, providing a shortcut to expansive knowledge of Sugihara, such as how the Bushido Code impacted him. This timeline was invaluable to us.

“German Invasion of Poland: Jewish Refugees,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
In order to fully understand why Sugihara’s choice was so impactful, so necessary to these Jews, we researched our background knowledge thoroughly. This article, about the invasion of Poland in 1939, advanced our education on why so many Jews were present in Lithuania during the time Sugihara stayed there. We were able to comprehend the situation of many of these Jews, these were people who’d been fleeing for their lives, only to find that the gates of the world had been shut to them. They were desperate, scared enough that they left their homes, these are the people who came to Sugihara.

Hoffert, Brian. “East Asia; Culture.” History and Religious Studies, North Central College,
<bhoffert.faculty.noctrl.edu/>. April. 2018
The Bushido Code was an integral part of Sugihara. Not only was this part of his national culture, but as his mother was raised upon the foundation of a Samurai family, the Bushido code was deeply embedded into his lens of the world. When Sugihara made choices like disobeying
his father and government, through the lens of today, it could simply appear to be rebellious and normal. Although with our understanding of the Bushido code, we’ve gained a deeper sense of what this really meant to Sugihara, the true gravity of his choices, and why his compromise what so sacrificial.

This interview, with historian David Kranzler, allowed a clear perspective of how the Russo-Japanese war affected Japan and Sugihara. We were able to grasp a brief overview of the foundation of Japan and its culture. It gave insight to the actions of Jacob Schiff, who shaped the cultural mindset towards Jews, and the reaction of the people and government of the time, showing what later affected Sugihara. We found that this war, the power behind it, and the reaction of the people affected all of ensuing history in Japan, nationally and personally in the viewpoint of Sugihara.

We used this map to explain German troop movement in Poland, and then to Lithuania, and how this action resulted in a rush of fleeing Jews into Lithuania.

Dr. Ewa gave a lecture specifically describing Sugihara’s role in the Japanese government, and therefore what the visas meant and their legality. It gave light to the government's reasons to station Sugihara in Lithuania, and what his ‘mission’ specifically was. It was insightful background information, vital in our development of Sugihara’s story, specifically how he came to be in Lithuania and what power and government position he held. This lecture continued to support our Conflict analysis. As accompanying knowledge of his position, the consequences of his actions in August held more weight, it personally connected us to Sugihara and the loss he would face.

During the major immigration of refugee Jews into Lithuania, due to the Poland Invasion in 1939, a quarter of a million Jews lived in the supposed safe haven. Soon, they started to witness the world closing around them. Those who sought the transportation services of Lithuania found the world closed to them. The value of Sugihara’s visas resides in this desperate plea. Without Sugihara, these Jews would have experienced the abhorrent actions of events and places like the concentration camps.

This article was written in Japan and translated into English, giving a current Japanese perspective on Chinue Sugihara’s actions, which often differed from American and Jewish sources. Also embedded into the article were quotes from Sugihara himself, describing the choice he made as a young man to not pursue being a doctor, like his father wanted, and instead decided to make his own path in life. Sugihara showed from a young age his desire to make his own path, even against culture and society, later playing into the events of 1940.

“Righteous Among the Nations: Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara,” Yad Vashem
<http://www.yadvashem.org/righteous/stories/sugihara.html> May. 2018
Chiune Sugihara lived his life humbly after 1940. This source, an overview by Yad Vashem, supplied us with a timeline of Sugihara’s life after the visas. What we found most insightful and important was the pieces about his Righteous Among the Nations award, one that is only given to outstanding individuals. We wanted to be sure that not only did we convey our knowledge of one important month, but the entire history of Sugihara, as it all ties back to this significant choice in his own history.

“Russo-Japanese War.” Staff, History.com, A&E Television Networks, 2018,
<www.history.com/topics/russo-japanese-war> March. 2018
The Russo Japanese War is a critical moment in the history of Japan, not only in light of its influences on Sugihara, but also in its cultural impacts. We determined that in order to properly convey complete and accurate background information, we need to include this. Without it, a significant building block of Sugihara’s personality would be lost. This article provided us with concise quotes we used to explain the Russo War.

Apr. 2018
As we accumulated information, trying to play the part of historians, we never wanted to leave out key information; or to leave our audience confused. As Sugihara issued Transit visas, which are very different from normal visas, we needed to make explicitly clear with our audience what he constituted.

Weller, Chris. “Mesmerizing maps show the global flow of refugees over the last 15 years,”
Business Insider, 15 May 2017
This source provided us with a phrasing of words we used to describe our visual of the map, which shows the major final destination sites of the Jews who received visa from Sugihara. This allows us and our audience with closure and the value of knowing that Sugihara’s compromise led to these Jews rebuilding their life in a safe reality.

Zwartendijk, Jan. "Chiune Sugihara." Jewish Virtual Library. 2018
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/chiune-sugihara> Feb. 2018
The Jewish Virtual Library made connections to important events before and during 1940 that affected Chiune Sugihara, such as the Dutch Connection. We found multiple examples of areas that we needed to research thoroughly, knowledge Sugihara, 1940, and relevant background information. In his later life, Sugihara was awarded the “Righteous Among Nations” award, the only acknowledgment he received officially and publicly. Here, we received an overview of this award, what it entitles, and how this applied to Sugihara.