



“Symbols are powerful communication tools. They convey considerable meaning in an immediately recognizable form, and the power they can have is tremendous. Consider the reverence or passion that the America flag, the Star of David, and the Christian cross evoke, and the impact of symbols is readily apparent. Unfortunately, symbols can convey negative connotations as well as positive ones. Some symbols are meant to evoke feelings of hate or anger, or to spark fear and insecurity. Hate symbols, for instance, can be found scrawled on the outside walls of synagogues, churches and schools; tattooed on the bodies of white supremacists; or displayed on jewelry and clothing. Extremists use these symbols because it gives them a sense of power and belonging, as well as a quick way of identifying others who share their beliefs.” (Source: The Anti-Defamation League)

You will explore hate symbols through the Hate Symbols Database at http://www.adl.org/combating-hate/hate-on-display/#.VPOX_4f68TO.

Let the following questions and prompts guide you and get you ready for your presentation to the class:

- What are the categories of hate symbols?
- Are there a lot of them or only a few?
- What kinds of symbols are there? Pictures? Words? Numbers? What are some of the different meanings?
- Do you notice anything in common about many of the symbols, for instance color or other identifying aspects?
- Did any of the symbols surprise you? Did any of them seem like symbols you see on a daily basis somewhere? What were they?