

## Student Letter Presentations

**Learning Goal:** To realise the depth of the Hebrew alephbet by studying a chosen letter and educating fellow students.

**Students' Aim:** Create and deliver a presentation for 5-10 mins that shows various meanings and interpretations about the shape, name, and use of your chosen letter, and are able to connect it to students lives.

### Method:

Read through the packet given to you.

Use appropriate websites e.g.:

<http://www.inner.org/hebleter/default.htm>



*Beware – lots of non-Jews appreciate the depth and wisdom of the Hebrew alephbet, but misrepresent it. Be discerning. If the website is [www.Hebrew4Christians.com](http://www.Hebrew4Christians.com) you may be misled. Pagans, wiccans, wizards, and Voldemort wannabees also like the Hebrew alphabet. Remember, for the presentation stick to the Jewish stuff.*

### Specifications

Your presentation should include the following:

1. Explain the shape and form of the letter (e.g. an *aleph* is a leaning *vav* with a *yud* above and below it)
2. Explain the main 'themes' of the letter. (e.g. a *gimmel* is the symbol kindness)
3. Explain what the letter actually means (e.g. a *bet* really means a '*bayit*' (house))
4. Explain **multiple** ideas that are derived from the letters. Be clear about how that idea is derived from the letter (e.g. *Hey* represents the divine breath that sustains the world – we see this in the Torah as *Avraham's* name was originally *Avram*. Once *Avram* recognised that G-d was the creator and sustainer of the world G-d gave him an extra '*hey*' in his name which would now be *Avra<sup>h</sup>am*)
5. **Relate how the ideas and themes contained in your letter can apply to our lives. This can include questions, song or film clips to engage students. (e.g. The '*hey*' of G-d's sustaining breath is silent. In our lives when we are so busy we perhaps don't hear G-d's sustaining breath. If we take time to listen, be silent, and still, perhaps we could hear it. How much of your day is filled with noise? How much is filled with quiet? Do like quiet/silence?)**
6. There should be an accompanying slide show that includes: a picture of your letter, any *passukim* (verses) or words that are part of your explanations. (I would think that most explanations would need a visual aid to help fellow students understand your ideas)

It is strongly suggested that all students meet with me before hand to make sure they are on track for getting the best grade possible.

**Rubric: 40 Points Total**

**A) For points 1-3 above 10 points.**

9-10 points. Complete, clear and understandable thus demonstrating mastery of the material.

7-8 points. Somewhat complete, clear and understandable demonstrating a basic understanding of the material.

**B) For point 4 above 10 points.**

9-10 points. Has at least 5 different ways of understanding the letter. Clearly stated and delivered. Demonstrated personal mastery of the material and ideas stated.

7-8 points. Has less than 5 different ways of understanding the letter. OR they are not clearly stated and delivered. Has demonstrated a basic understanding of the material and ideas stated.

**C) For point 5 above 10 points.**

9-10 points. Student is able to make meaningful connections between the ideas and messages that they are presenting with the lives of the students in the room. Tries to make sophisticated and meaningful connections. May include questions, pictures, film, song clips, scripts or lyrics to make their point.

7-8 points. Student was not able to fully make connections between the ideas and messages that they are presenting with the lives of the students in the room. Did not attempt to make sophisticated and meaningful connections. May include questions, pictures, film, song clips, scripts or lyrics to make their point.

**D) For point 6 above 10 points**

9-10 points. Has appropriate slides that accompany the ideas being presented. They are clear and attractive. At least five slides.

7-8 points. Does not have appropriate slides that accompany the ideas being presented. They are unclear and not attractive. May not have at least five slide.