

Shira Hammerman, Areyvut Text Study and Jewish Philanthropy

- Text study should be an integral part of philanthropy programs.
- You can always relate your personal experiences to texts.
- Texts are the roots of our values.
- It can be important to have the texts in just Hebrew, Hebrew and English, or just English depending on your audience.
- Just English can sometimes be beneficial in that it puts everyone on equal footing and can make participants look at traditional texts in a new way.
- Jewish texts allow for a Jewish connection within the program goals.
- Jewish texts build a Jewish community of learners.
- Jewish texts provide additional Jewish education for participants who do not participate in other formal Jewish programs.
- Texts can provide participants with new perspectives.
- You can open each session with a classic text study or do an activity related to the text without actually doing an in-depth study of the text.
- You can use texts as prompts for students to write reflections while waiting for everyone in the group to arrive.
- Use key Hebrew words from related texts as part of your regular vocabulary- say chesed instead of kindness for example.
- You can devote an introductory session to engaging with Jewish texts on philanthropy.
- Use texts on Jewish values when creating a mission statement for your program.
- Look at texts relating to the area of focus of the organizations you're granting money to.
- Use text study or a related activity to introduce the concept of Jewish philanthropy to people.
- Use Jewish texts as a frame of reference.
- Include a text with each meeting agenda to put work in a Jewish context.
- Provide texts in a binder as a resource for motivated students to explore on their own.