Tali Hyman of the Rhea Hirsch School of Education at HUC-LA and Lisa Grant of the School of Education at HUC-NY assigned the same final project to their students.

Contributing to the Field: Final assignment for Social Foundations (LA), and History of Jewish Education in America (NY), Fall 2007.

A serious Contribution to the Field considers a dilemma from multiple points of view. Such a contribution requires passion and investment. The author clarifies his or her stance towards the dilemma and offers creative possibilities for responsible change. Moreover, it is grounded in an implicit or explicit spirit of stakeholder collaboration, or at least recognizes the variety of stakeholders who are involved.

Students will write a 4-6 page article (double spaced) suitable for a publication to which reflective practitioners of Jewish education are invited to contribute. For example: Agenda: Jewish Education (JESNA), Jewish Education News (CAJE), Jewish Educational Leadership (Lookstein Center, Bar Ilan University).

The article should:

a) Address a dilemma, concern, or problem facing Jewish education. Describe the issue clearly, and demonstrate why it is so important; i.e. determine "what's at stake" in this issue for the field, why it matters.

b) Provide some historical and sociological context for the issue, locating this issue in time and space. Discuss the tensions relevant to this issue as you, and others have understood it, looking to literature you read in this course, and any other helpful information and scholarship you can find on the topic, in order to situate your assertions in the larger discourse of the field.

c) Offer your creative, refreshing, compelling analysis of the issue. You might choose to propose a course of action and/or a vision for change, and outline what will be necessary to get there, what challenges/obstacles might be faced.