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NYC-USDOE TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT

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Whom It May Concern:

It was a great pleasure to meet filmmaker, Jon Fein, at New York Historical Society and take part in his participatory and interactive presentation, **Objects and Memory**. Mr. Fein's work emphasizes the importance of memorialization and commemoration of difficult and celebratory events. The information presented by Mr. Fein was moving and extremely enlightening. His work is helpful for teachers and students in understanding how objects can tell many stories and how they contain valid meanings. His workshop was beneficial in helping us reflect on both historical and current events. His ideas can help teachers introduce students to an integral part of their history, especially as it relates to their local and global community. The excerpts presented from Mr. Fein's documentary would be useful in discussing very political and emotional content as well as in talking with students about violence and the consequences of intolerance. The stories in the film of the Oklahoma City bombing and 9/11 highlight the importance of preserving historical events as well as engaging students in a greater discussion about conflict and resolution.

Overall Mr. Fein's work and ideas can easily be integrated into the school curriculum across various subject areas and can be useful in developing literacy skills. His presentation is both applicable and valuable for teachers and students at all levels. I highly recommend Mr. Fein for future workshops with teachers and students. His work is revolutionary in bringing about a greater discussion and awareness of our history, conflict and the need for tolerance.

Best,

Linda Harris
Teaching American History Grant
Project Director