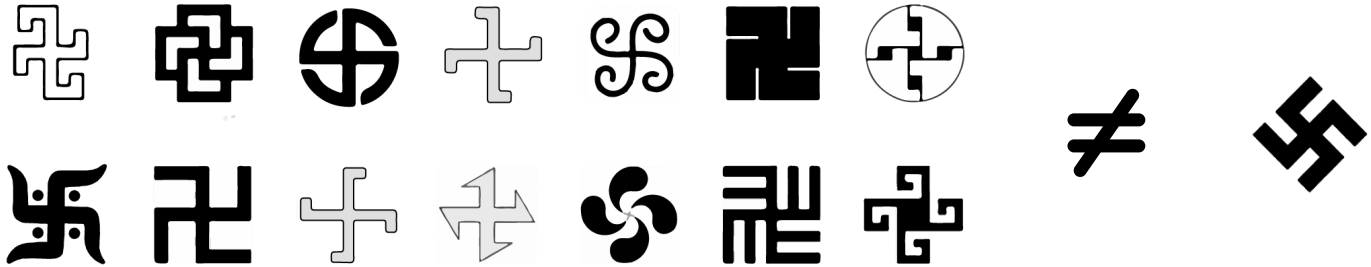


# EVERY STUDENT BELONGS

## LEARNING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SYMBOLS



*The Swastika, Whirling Log, & other cultural & religious uses are not the same as the Nazi 'hakenkreuz'*

### 1. ACCURATE LANGUAGE HELPS BUILD UNDERSTANDING.

**Clarify for students both the connotations and denotations of the term "Swastika".**

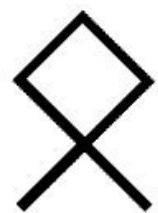
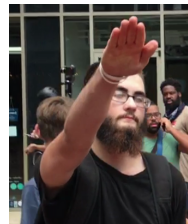
While the hooked cross image is commonly referred to as a 'swastika,' the actual Nazi and Neo-Nazi symbol is correctly labeled as a 'hakenkreuz,' the German word for 'hooked cross'. Connect the dots through education and clarification about the terminology.

**Denotation:** 'Swastika' is a Sanskrit word and is used to symbolize auspiciousness and elements of the natural world in many religions and cultures, including in Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Jainism, and some Native American religions and cultures.

**Connotation:** The association with racism and the Holocaust was a corruption by the Nazi party. Neo-Nazi use of this symbol is intended to intimidate specific communities. (Footnote: See ESB Guidance "Symbols of Hate" for additional information)

### 2. NAZI SYMBOLISM ISN'T LIMITED TO THE HAKENKREUZ.

Salutes, alpha-numeric codes, and other symbols are also used to convey hate. "Heil Hilter" salute, SS hand sign and bolts, "Camp Auschwitz," "88," "6MWNE," "Blut und Ehre," some runes, and others can be found at the [adl.org](http://adl.org) database.



### 3. LEARN AND RESEARCH IN ORDER TO ATTEND TO IMPACT.

What can you find out online or from students? Hate symbols can change and enter into culture frequently. Students and others may be able to shed light on the meaning, meme, or cultural issue that is causing harm. If a student is using a symbol that has caused harm, ask about their intentions and understanding in order to educate and have dialog.