

Unit III: Historical Context of Terrorism

Grade Levels: 9-12

Time: 90 minutes

Lesson HIII-9: Hate Groups Across the United States

Objective:

The student will make the connection between the concept of hatred and the violence associated with present-day hate groups.

Key Terms:

Hate group

Materials:

- Hate Groups Active in 2008. SPLC Intelligence Report <http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2009/spring/the-year-in-hate>

Activities/Procedures:

1. Ask the students to define the word, "hate."
2. After a discussion of the definition, read how the word hate is defined in the Merriam-Webster On Line Dictionary, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/hate
 - Intense hostility and aversion usually derived from fear, anger, and sense of injury.
 - Extreme dislike or antipathy.
3. Then ask the class, "Where do you think the greatest concentration of hate groups is found in the United States?"
4. Distribute the article, Hate Groups Active in 2008, (<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2009/spring/the-year-in-hate>) and allow students approximately 20-25 minutes to answer the following questions:
 - How many active hate groups were there in 2008?
 - How may that number be compared to 2007?
 - What is the source of the information?
 - What are the criteria for considering a group active?
 - Which group's numbers are understated? Why?
 - What do the following groups profess?
 - a. Christian Identity
 - b. Black Separatist
 - c. New Confederate
 - d. White Nationalist
 - Name some sub-category groups that espouse ideologies of hatred.
 - Which states have the highest concentration of hate groups?
 - Is the number of groups necessarily proportional to the size of the state?
 - What are "patriot groups" and what do they believe in?

5. The teacher will discuss the answers to the questions with the students (approximately 20-25 minutes).

Evidence of Understanding

(Assessment of Student Performance: Formative and Summative)

1. Students will write an essay answering the following:
2. What can you now say about hate groups and the objects of their aggression?
3. What are your projections for the number of hate groups present in the United States for the years 2009 and 2010?
4. What are the reasons for your projections?

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service:

1. Interactive Website Project:
 - Students will go to the Southern Poverty Law Center website and learn more about hate crime activities. <http://www.splcenter.org> Then click "Intelligence Project" and read information.
 - They will access the map of hate groups across the United States and click on New Jersey. On the website click "Hate Group Map" (<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/hate-map>) and then select New Jersey (or another state).
 - Teacher will ask the students, "What conclusions did you draw from this information and were you surprised by this knowledge?"
2. Research Paper:
 - What community groups are there to help alleviate hate?
 - How can legislation and law enforcement intervene?
 - Share these papers and thoughts with your local legislators.

*“A guide to the day that
changed the world
and the consequences
for our future.”*

*The Hon. Thomas Kean, former New Jersey Governor and
Chair, the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*

