

Unit IV: 9/11, A Case Study in Contemporary Terrorism

Grade Levels: 9-12

Time: 5 class periods

Lesson HIV-13: Pictures of 9/11

Objective:

Students will view, organize, research, and provide captions for pictures of the events of 9/11. They will familiarize themselves with the timeline, give faces to the events and develop a picture essay of the day.

Students will be able to analyze photographs as primary source documentation, describe the photos as records of history, and see from these photos the events as well as the extraordinary acts performed by individuals from all walks of life and the stories of 9/11.

Materials:

Timeline

Photographs

Scissors, paste, paper

Computer internet access for research, additional information and photographs

As suggested in the guidelines for implementing this curriculum, the classroom must be a safe space for all students. We should be mindful of how certain words and images affect students, especially those students who have experienced trauma and loss. We strongly urge teachers to preview the images at the links listed below and decide which photographs are appropriate for their students. Before the lesson begins, teachers should tell the class about the images they will be viewing:

“Like many images of disaster and tragic events, the photographs you will be seeing are graphic in nature. Although you may have seen them in newspapers or on the television, they can still be unsettling. Many people experience strong reactions. Be aware of how you are reacting and don’t feel you need to look at every photo or any photos.”

Images of destruction should not be posted on bulletin boards or shown on a big screen in a darkened classroom. Smaller photographs allow students to pace themselves and be selective as to how much they want to look at, depending on their personal experience and responses.

Finally, teachers should consider alternate assignments or adapt this assignment for those students who may be more vulnerable to such images.

Activities/Procedures:

1. Students will be given the timeline for the events of 9/11 (NY, DC, PA) and discuss this with the class.
2. Students will be divided into groups and photograph web resources of the following categories:
 - morning skyline and physical consequences
 - people
 - rescue workers, first responders and volunteers
 - national and international community reactions
3. Each group will decide on the organization of their photographs using the timeline for reference.
4. Each photograph is to be given both a title and a caption (which is to include information from the timeline and their research).
5. The groups are to arrange their photographs with titles and captions on pages to show the events through

pictures.

6. The groups are to write an introduction of at least one page for their section.

Optional:

- A jigsaw group with members from each of the original groups will form new groups. These groups are to learn from each other by presenting and discussing each section. They will then write an introduction for the entire array of photographs.
- Each jigsaw group will report on their overall introduction and the class will compose an inclusive introduction using the information provided by each group plus their new contributions.

Evidence of Understanding (Formative and Summative Assessment)

Formative:

Students will present a copy of the photographs with titles and captions as well as their section's introduction from their original groups. This is to be a hard copy and a brief oral presentation.

A copy of the overall introduction will be presented both orally and as a text.

Summative:

A final booklet will be assembled for and distributed to each student which will include: overall introduction, each section with an introduction, photographs with titles and captions and a front cover designed by and agreed upon by the class.

Extension Activities: Taking Action and Giving Service:

The final booklet may be presented to and shared with other classes (i.e. art, photography, social studies).

Web Resources for Student Research

On the websites listed below you will find photos from 9/11 (some may have a title in bold and an extended caption). You may include historical facts/headlines/speeches/articles from the day and afterwards. Their purpose is to tell a story of what they see and what they want to say about 9/11 and beyond.

<http://www.september11news.com/>

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/> (choose dates from Archives)

http://topics.cnn.com/topics/september_11_attacks

