To Understand the Unthinkable
Addressing the pedagogical limits of genocide

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The Pedagogical Limits of Genocide

Genocide & Pedagogy

- What to Highlight?
- What Issues?
- What Challenges?
- Why Genocide?
- What to Avoid?
Why Genocide?

- STATE mandate
- A topic with DISCIPLINARY interest
- Combat IGNORANCE through knowledge exchange
- Strong belief that genocide is PREVENTABLE

What Issues?

What do we need to know in order to teach about genocide?

- Clarity of Terms
- Underlying Issues
- Political Context
- Distinguishing unique and common features
What Challenges?

What pushback will you face teaching about genocide?

- Separate the information from the propaganda
- Select major factual information from reliable sources
- Honor and respect what's important.

What to Avoid?

- Comparing genocides
  - Do not compare the Holocaust with other genocides
  - Do not compare one genocide with another
  - Do not compare the destruction with human suffering
- Simplifying a complex event
  - Be wary of oversimplification
- Translating people into statistics
  - Acknowledge the extent but also the context under which these deaths occurred
What to Highlight?

- Information about genocides
- General moral issues
- Memorialization vs knowledge attainment
- Relationship between genocides and larger issues

Elaborating while summarizing

To teach about genocide means trying to balance democracy with larger societal and global issues;

To better engage in debates and gain a commitment to justice;

To become aware of patterns while realizing importance of promoting humane foreign policy and human rights violations.
For More Information

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Sources


http://www.lbe.unesco.org