

Antisemitism Toolkit for Schools
Shine A Light for Chanukkah Week of Action
November 28- December 6

SHINE A LIGHT ON ANTISEMITISM THROUGH EDUCATION

OVERVIEW

The topic of antisemitism is complex, deeply historical and has a myriad of elements to it. Antisemitism is not only about defaming and attacking the Jewish community; it is a symptom of a larger issue. While antisemitism has sometimes escalated to violence as we saw at the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting, it more often appears in subtler ways, such as insensitive remarks or “jokes” that are brushed off, or negative stereotypes that go unchallenged. When hatred remains unchecked it can escalate to violence.

Antisemitism is never the lone expression of intolerance in a society. Today, Jewish young people are regularly experiencing antisemitic comments, taunts, harassment, hate speech and graffiti in the halls and classrooms of their schools, in their neighborhoods and communities, and in their digital spaces. We can address this by teaching all young people the values of respect, inclusion and equity and how to act as an ally when they see bias of any kind.

ADL has been fighting antisemitism and all forms of hate since 1913. Through our education division, we develop programs, trainings, curricula and resources that empower educators, students and parents to challenge bias in themselves, others and society. Below are education resources you can use in your classroom and home to help young people understand and challenge antisemitism.

PROGRAMS

BINAH

The latest in ADL Education’s antisemitism programs, BINAH – Building Insights to Navigate Antisemitism and Hate – is a free digital, interactive course that motivates high school students to identify as global citizens with respect for all people, regardless of the makeup of their school community. These real-world stories help students understand and explore antisemitism while also building empathy and allyship.

ECHOES AND REFLECTIONS

Through ADL’s Holocaust education program, Echoes & Reflections, educators learn how to teach about the Holocaust and antisemitism, and how they impact today’s world. This program, a partnership between ADL, USC Shoah Foundation and Yad Vashem, provides educators with important context, resources, and professional development to support classroom instruction. Since 2005, Echoes & Reflections, has impacted more than 85,000 educators, reaching an estimated 8 million students across the US.

LESSON PLANS

[Antisemitism Around the World](#) – Multimedia lesson plan that uses the [ADL Global 100: An Index of Antisemitism](#) to explore antisemitic tropes and attitudes in the US and around the world.

[Deadly Shooting At Tree of Life Synagogue](#) – Featuring the Pyramid of Hate to, this lesson plan uses Pittsburgh synagogue shooting as a case study to show how bigotry escalates from ideas, to words, to behaviors, to discriminatory policies and, finally, to genocidal violence.

[Antisemitic Incidents: Being an Ally, Advocate, Activist](#) – This lesson plan asks students to consider different kinds of recent antisemitic incidents, from Holocaust jokes, to swastika vandalism, to assault and their impact.

[The Resilience of Antisemitism: The Protocols of the Elders of Zion](#) – Three-part series of lessons that teaches about the history of antisemitism and raises awareness about the tactics of hate propaganda and skills to respond, on and offline.

[Challenging Antisemitism: Debunking Myths and Responding with Facts](#) – This two-unit series provides students with basic understanding of the Jewish people and their history, religion and culture as well as facts to counter certain myths and stereotypes about Jewish people that students might encounter.

[Pyramid of Hate Mini Lesson](#)

ADL's mini-lessons are short, interactive, online lessons for educators to learn about a core ADL topic, theme or activity. This mini-lesson will introduce you to the Pyramid of Hate, an activity that demonstrates how each level of the pyramid reflects a system of oppression that negatively impacts individuals, institutions and society. When we challenge those biased attitudes and behaviors, we can interrupt the escalation of bias and make it more difficult for discrimination and hate to flourish.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Antisemitism Today Table Talk: Family Conversations About Current Events](#)

[Discussing Antisemitism: A Guide for Reflection and Conversation](#) – Discussion guide for parents and educators on antisemitism and allyship.

[Alt-Right and White Supremacy](#) – Lesson plan that helps students understand what White Supremacy is, explore historic and modern-day examples, and the elements of antisemitism that animate it.

[Swastikas and Other Hate Symbols](#) – Students reflect on the significance of symbols in our society and learn about the swastika and other symbols of hate and their impact on communities. Students consider what can be done, as individuals, a school or community, to respond to the appearance of hate symbols.

[Think. Plan. Act.](#) – Tools for dealing with antisemitic and anti-Israel incidents on campus.

[Professional Learning Courses](#) - Echoes & Reflections offers educators opportunities to bolster knowledge about The Holocaust, antisemitism, its contemporary manifestations, and making connections to current events. Teachers are invited to participate in any online courses offered, free of charge, these courses ranging from 2-3 hours, to 4-6 hours of instruction, with built-in interactive opportunities for discussion and guidance on classroom instruction.

[Webinars for Teachers and Students](#) - Echoes & Reflections offers 1-hours webinars on topics from the media literacy skills and teaching with first-person testimony, or discussing Holocaust analogies or images. Webinars are designed to increase participants' knowledge of Holocaust history, contemporary antisemitism, and explore and access classroom-ready content, and support instructional practice to promote student learning and understanding of this complex history.

[The Calendar of Observances](#)

The increasingly pluralistic and multicultural population of the U.S. is made up of many different ethnic, cultural, faith and religious communities. To promote understanding, respect and inclusion, ADL offers this resource as a tool to increase awareness of and respect for religious observations and ethnic and cultural festivities that impacts students, colleagues and neighbors in your community.

[School & Workplace Accommodations for the Jewish High Holidays](#)

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) firmly believes that to create welcoming and respectful school and workplace environments, diligent efforts should be made to accommodate observance of the High Holidays and other religious practices with school or work responsibilities in a meaningful way. Accommodating students and employees who seek to take time off for the High Holidays is not merely a principled and worthy practice. Rather, in many instances it may be legally required. However, to obtain a religious accommodation for the High Holidays from schools or employers, students and employees often have to fulfill certain obligations.

[Books Matter](#)

Reading books is a great opening to talk about identity, diversity, bias and social justice. ADL's collection includes excellent picture, chapter and young adult books. Our featured Books of the Month come with discussion guides for teachers and families.