

Name: _____ Bell: _____ Date: _____

You Be the Judge: What is Terrorism? Who is a Terrorist?

My personal definition of terrorism is:

Our group definition of terrorism is:

Scenario #1

The **16th Street Baptist Church** in Birmingham, Alabama was bombed on Sunday, September 15, 1963 . The explosion at the African-American church, which killed four girls, marked a turning point in the U.S. 1960s Civil Rights Movement and contributed to support for passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Although city leaders had reached a settlement in May with demonstrators and started to integrate public places, not everyone agreed with ending segregation. Bombings and other acts of violence followed the settlement, and the church had become an inviting target. The three-story 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama had been a rallying point for civil rights activities through the spring of 1963, and was where the students who were arrested during the 1963 Birmingham campaign's Children's Crusade were trained. The church was used as a meeting-place for civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph David Abernathy and Fred Shuttlesworth. Tensions were escalated when the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) became involved in a campaign to register African Americans to vote in Birmingham.

Questions:

1. Which, if any, of these activities should be considered “terrorism” according to your definition?
2. Who are the “terrorists” in this situation?
3. What more would you need to know to be more sure of your answers?

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Scenario #2

On the morning of Thursday, 12 October 2000, USS *Cole* docked in Aden harbor for a routine fuel stop. *Cole* Refueling started at 10:30. Around 11:18 local time, a small craft approached the port side of the destroyer, and an explosion occurred, creating a 40-by-40-foot gash in the ship's port side. According to former CIA intelligence officer Robert Finke, the blast appeared to be caused by explosives molded into a shaped charge against the hull of the boat.^[2] Around 400 to 700 pounds (200–300 kg) of explosive were used. The blast hit the ship's galley, where crew were lining up for lunch. The crew fought flooding in the engineering spaces and had the damage under control after 3 days. Divers inspected the hull and determined that the keel was not damaged.

17 sailors were killed and 39 were injured in the blast. The injured sailors were taken to the United States Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center near Ramstein, Germany, and later, back to the United States. The attack was the deadliest against a U.S. Naval vessel since the Iraqi attack on the USS *Stark* on 17 May 1987.

Questions:

1. Which, if any, of these activities should be considered “terrorism” according to your definition?
2. Who are the “terrorists” in this situation?
3. What more would you need to know to be more sure of your answers?

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Scenario #3

TWA Flight 847 was an international Trans World Airlines flight, which was hijacked by members of Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, on Friday morning, June 14, 1985, after originally taking off from Cairo. The flight was en route from Athens to Rome and then scheduled to terminate in London. The hijackers were seeking the release of 700 Shi'ite Muslims from Israeli custody.

The passengers and crew endured a three-day intercontinental ordeal. Some passengers were threatened and some beaten. Passengers with Jewish-sounding names were moved apart from the others, and U.S. Navy diver Robert Dean Stethem was killed. His body was thrown onto the tarmac. Dozens of passengers were held hostage over the next two weeks until released by their captors after some of their demands were met.

Questions:

1. Which, if any, of these activities should be considered "terrorism" according to your definition?
2. Who are the "terrorists" in this situation?
3. What more would you need to know to be more sure of your answers?