

# Dr. Noam Weissman

*Nuanced Education for the Digital Age*

## Session Topics

Below you will find a selection of session topics to choose from, revolving around the following themes:

- [Social media and antisemitism](#)
  - [Israeli history and current events](#)
  - [Zionism](#)
  - [Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#)
  - [General Israel education](#)
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## Social Media and Antisemitism

### Social Media and Antisemitism

In this session participants will learn how to differentiate between antisemitism and anti-Zionism, when to respond and when to ignore, and best practices on how to channel social media in a positive way.

### Unpacking Antisemitism: From Age-Old to Modern Conspiracies

This workshop explores subtle and overt forms of antisemitism, using real-world examples to help recognize and understand its roots. Participants will learn to identify antisemitic tropes and conspiracies, gaining insights into their impact on Jewish identity and community. Through interactive discussions, participants are empowered to recognize and challenge antisemitism and contribute to a more inclusive and respectful society.

## **Navigating Social Media When Israel is at War: Best Practices for Students**

The war in Israel is playing out on social media as much as it is on the battlefield. Students are facing challenging questions, anti-Israel content, and a constant stream of news. This session aims to teach students how to be responsible consumers of social media.

Together we will answer questions like:

- When should you engage in online discussions and when is it better to unfollow?
- When does content criticizing Israel cross the line into antisemitism?
- How can you take care of your mental health while online?
- How do you determine if a source online is reputable?

And so much more.

## **What Are My Kids Seeing on Social Media?**

We know that teens today are getting their news online, and often from unvetted and graphic sources. What does this mean for your kids? How are they interacting with each other on social media? How is their time online affecting their time offline? This session aims to teach parents how to encourage their teens to be responsible consumers of social media while also thinking about their own use of digital content.

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## **Israeli History and Current Events**

### **Israel's Most Challenging Moment**

This session takes a deep dive into how to engage with Israel's challenging moments, including both events in the past as well as current events that continue to spark difficult conversations surrounding Israel.

## **Unpacking the War and Navigating Israeli Current Events**

Israel's history is an ongoing saga that continues to capture the attention of the world. Current events in Israel are complicated and this session takes the most pressing issues in Israel and unpacks the history, context and the wide contours of dispute surrounding the issue.

## **Using Music To Teach About October 7th**

What does Israeli music released since Oct. 7th teach us about Israeli society and what it's going through right now? This session will lead educators through a model lesson using Israeli music to connect students to Israel in a practical, meaningful and engaging way.

## **Israel Through War and Peace: Putting the Middle East in Context**

Explore the history of Israel from 1947 to the present, focusing on key moments of conflict and peace. This session covers the Arab-Israeli wars, peace agreements with Egypt and Jordan, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Participants will gain insight into dual narratives, the complexities of the peace process, and recent events, including the Abraham Accords and the October 7th, 2023 attack. Emphasizing empathy and understanding, this session equips educators to navigate the complexities of teaching about Israel's history and its regional relationships.

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## **Zionism**

### **The Top Five Zionist Moments All Students Should Know**

One of the most important tools in Israel education today is ensuring our students have a strong sense of cultural literacy around Israel and Zionism. This session will highlight five key moments in Zionist history that our students should know, discuss why each event is so crucial to learn, and share practical tips on how educators can use Unpacked for Educators resources to teach about these moments in their classrooms.

## **Zionism in Action: Crafting Your Zionist Vision**

This interactive session invites students to explore their personal connection to Zionism through a creative vision board activity. Students will reflect on what Zionism means to them and express their ideas visually, drawing from various streams of Zionist thought.

## **Zionism's Identity Crisis**

In the 21st century, Zionism is faced with an identity crisis: it is increasingly being defined negatively by its opponents. Meanwhile supporters of Zionism often lack the language to express what Zionism is. This session will explore these identity crises and present some helpful ways of framing and responding to the challenges by looking back at Zionist history and forward to the future of Zionism.

## **Unpacking Zionism and the History of Israel**

Explore the rich history of Zionism and its diverse strands of thought, from ancient roots to the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948. The session highlights key moments in Zionist history and addresses the impact of modern Jewish statehood on Palestinian Arabs and the broader Arab world. Participants will gain a nuanced understanding of Zionism as *sui generis* in modern history and lean into the importance of empathy, complexity, and understanding as crucial to teaching this history.

## **Teaching Zionism Across Grade Levels: Strategies and Resources for 1st to 12th Grade**

This session will provide educators with comprehensive strategies for teaching Zionism to students from 1st through 12th grade, highlighting a variety of resources tailored to different age groups. Educators will explore practical tips on how to introduce and discuss key concepts of Zionism, fostering a deep connection to Israel across all grade levels. Participants will leave with actionable insights on using Unpacked for Educators' materials to create impactful lessons that resonate with students of all ages.

## **What's the Definition of Zionism?**

This workshop delves into the diverse schools of thought within Zionism. Students will explore six major Zionist ideologies: political, labor, cultural, revisionist, religious, and diaspora Zionism. Through examining the leaders and basic philosophies of each, participants will understand how these ideas clashed and converged around the central goal of creating a Jewish state. The session aims to introduce students to the diversity of Zionist thought and understand how these debates continue to shape Israeli society today.

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## **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

### **Crash-Course in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

Educators will gain an understanding of the historical roots and causes of the conflict, exploring key events and the challenges facing Israelis and Palestinians today. Educators will gain resources and tools for classroom use.

### **Do's and Don'ts of Teaching the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

This session explores some of the most common challenges educators face when teaching the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and offers several practical tools to mitigate each one.

### **Unpacking the "Big Questions" with Students**

This session will model for educators how to engage with students around the "big questions" about Israel. How do we approach topics such as "Is Israel an Occupying Power?", "Is Zionism Colonialism?", and "Is Israel an Apartheid State?", in an authentic and nuanced way? Learn strategies for breaking down these topics that empower students to embrace their Zionism and not shy away from the difficult questions.

## **Engaging in Courageous Conversations Across Differences**

This workshop aims to provide a framework to teach the mindsets and skill sets needed to effectively engage in courageous and respectful conversations across differing opinions and identities, especially on sensitive topics. The session will emphasize active listening, empathy, and constructive dialogue, providing practical tools for navigating challenging conversations.

## **Unpacking Israel: The History Behind the Headlines**

This workshop provides teachers with a historical overview of the complex relationship between Jews and Arabs in the land. Beginning with the significance of this land to two peoples, the session will cover key events such as the U.N. Partition Plan, the 1948 War, the 1967 Six-Day War, the 1979 & 1994 peace treaties with Egypt & Jordan, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and peace process, the 2020 Abraham Accords, and October 7, and the ongoing war. Participants will gain insights into how these historical events have shaped the region and continue to influence current events.

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## **General Israel Education**

### **Israel Education for Today's Generation**

This session outlines Unpacked for Educators' vision for Israel education, the importance of introducing nuance and diversity of perspective into discussions about Israel, and the need for a shift from advocacy to education. Participants will discuss and debate what paradigm shifts are needed in Israel Education today.

### **Developing a "Canon for Israel Education" For Your School**

In a recent article, Dr. David Bryfman advocates for schools to develop "[a canon for Israel education](#)", a list of fundamental texts and awarenesses that young people need to have about Israel. In this workshop, educators will think about what core texts and ideas they want their graduates to leave with, building out their own canons for Israel education unique to their school communities. This session will also discuss different ways to integrate this canon into their school curriculum.

## **Can Israel Be Both Jewish and Democratic?**

This session explores the complexities of Israel's identity as both Jewish and democratic. Students will engage with challenging questions and scenarios that highlight the tensions and opportunities within this unique national framework, considering issues such as religious pluralism, minority rights, and national symbols.

## **Teaching Current Events in Israel Today**

For many educators today, teaching about Israel in the classroom has never been so daunting. This session will outline the challenges that exist in Israel education today and why a new approach is needed. Educators will learn practical strategies on how to confidently lean into the nuance and complexity of teaching about Israel, as well as how to use Unpacked for Educators videos, content, and educational resources to achieve these goals.

## **Discussing Israel in Interfaith Homes and Relationships**

We all have unique connections to Israel and a diversity of perspectives on the current conflict between Israel and Hamas. This session will provide strategies for respectful dialogue, empathizing with and validating differing perspectives, and finding common ground while discussing complex topics related to Israel.