Educator Tips for Combating Holocaust Denial & Antisemitism in the School Setting

Created by Amy Shaw, Content Editor Senior, ProQuest

Infographic originally appeared on ProQuest Share This blog

When Teaching About the Holocaust Keep the Following in Mind

Michael Gray's book, *Teaching the Holocaust: Practical Approaches for Ages 11-18*, provides guidance on navigating Holocaust education mindfully and offers advice, lesson plans and resources to do so. This infographic provides key takeaways from Chapters 11 & 12, which detail ways to combat antisemitism and Holocaust denial in schools.

Don't ignore antisemitism or present it as something inevitable.

Don't reinforce antisemitic stereotypes.

Don't use Nazi propaganda without exercising caution.

Don't dehumanize Jews, constantly portray them as victims or define them solely in terms of the Holocaust.

Don't get sidetracked onto contemporary Middle Eastern politics and conflict.

Present antisemitism as something which should be challenged and rejected. If antisemitism manifests itself in your classroom, make sure your action implies that the behavior is unacceptable.

Provide diverse examples of Jewish individuals and families to challenge stereotypes and misconceptions.

Ensure that students understand the context of Nazi propaganda. Propaganda should be carefully deconstructed to show its inaccuracies and prejudices.

Explain who Jews are and show positive moments in their history. Provide information on their religion, history and culture. When discussing the Holocaust, highlight the Jewish resistance to demonstrate their bravery and courage. Always exercise caution when showing graphic images of the Holocaust.

Don't get side-tracked onto contemporary Middle Eastern politics and conflict.

Addressing Holocaust Denial & Distortion in the Classroom

ADVANTAGES

1. The truth will prevail. Teachers should offer opportunities for different viewpoints to ensure the classroom is a forum for debate, discussion and learning. If students can reach their opinion through evidence-based knowledge as opposed to official sanction, they will be better equipped.

2. Holocaust denial websites are already easily discovered by students. Students who encounter Holocaust denial websites will be more likely to reject their ideas if they are presented with appropriate counter-arguments.

3. Examining Holocaust denial demonstrates that there are answers to the arguments presented by Holocaust deniers. Ignoring it might make students conclude there might be truth to Holocaust deniers' claims.

4. It may help reduce the ability of Holocaust deniers to recruit new supporters. Students might be less likely to be drawn to the work of Holocaust deniers if teachers raise the issue first and make it be seen as ignorant as opposed to something risqué or edgy.

DISADVANTAGES

1. It can legitimize the cause of the Holocaust denial and distortion movement. Teachers might run the risk of giving deniers and distorters unmerited recognition. Students might be fooled by the facade of scholarly legitimacy built by deniers and distorters.

2. It can raise awareness of the Holocaust denial and distortion movement. Some students might not have heard of the movement. This argument is flawed, however, because it assumes two things: 1) raised awareness equals raised support and 2) ignorance is preferable to knowledge.

3. It could pique students' curiosity to visit Holocaust denial websites. This, however, should not be a serious concern because if teachers are knowledgeable and confident in the material they are teaching, students will be less likely to be drawn to the websites with a critical approach.

Source: Teaching the Holocaust Practical Approaches for Ages 11-18 by Michael Gray via ProQuest Ebook Central

More Information: ProQuest Guided Research products also offer many resources on the Holocaust. Free trials are available.