GENOCIDE & MASS ATROCITY: CONSIDERATIONS FOR TEACHING ETHICALLY & EFFECTIVELY

These principles draw upon guidelines from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Advocates for Human Rights. They have been synthesized and expanded into guidelines for teaching about difficult topics related to gross human rights violations in history.

- Center learning on students.
- Integrate human rights and history.
- Avoid comparisons of pain; there is no hierarchy of suffering and each genocide is unique and tragic.
- Acknowledge the sensitive nature of the topic. Plan for a variety of emotional responses from your students.
- Complicate thinking; avoid oversimplification.
- Avoid inevitability; these events were not inescapable and occurred because of the decisions and actions of individuals and institutions.
- Emphasize personal agency.
- Promote action and avoid cynicism.
- Be sensitive to learners and victims.
- Allow time to process the material.
- Approach sources with care; preview all materials before sharing with students.