



TWM

TEACHING WHILE MUSLIM

## Lesson Plan on 9/11, the US, and Afghanistan

### Objective:

Analyze the relationship between the United States and Afghanistan before and after 9/11 using primary and secondary sources with an essay.

### Do Now:

1. What do you know about 9/11, why it happened, and the aftermath?
2. How is 9/11 and Afghanistan connected?

### Lesson:

1. Create basic community agreements for discussions
  - a. Listen respectfully, without interrupting.
  - b. Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views. (Don't just think about what you are going to say while someone else is talking.)
  - c. Criticize ideas, not individuals.
  - d. Commit to learning, not debating. Comment in order to share information, not to persuade.
  - e. Avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language.
  - f. Allow everyone the chance to speak.
  - g. Avoid assumptions about any member of the class or generalizations about social groups. Do not ask individuals to speak for their (perceived) social group.
  - h. Taken from : <https://crlt.umich.edu/publinks/generalguidelines>
2. Discuss Do Now responses
3. Read basic facts of 9/11 (from [Morningside Center](#))

“ A group of men hijacked two planes and flew them into the World Trade Center, a pair of skyscrapers in downtown Manhattan (New York City). After several enormous explosions, both buildings collapsed, killing almost 3,000 people. On that same day, two additional planes were hijacked by members of the same group. One was flown into the Pentagon in Washington, DC, killing 125 people, while the other crashed in a field in Pennsylvania killing all on board. Though it was never proven, that last plane was thought to be on its way to the White House or the Capitol. People throughout the United States were shocked by these attacks on American soil. They came together, asking how this could have happened and what it meant. In New York City people consoled and supported each other. They set up impromptu memorials to remember the victims, including some that called for peace and no war. People from other parts of the country, including children and young people, sent cards and gifts, and some came to the city to help out. It was a difficult time for Muslims and Arab-Americans, because the men who carried out the attacks were

Arabs and Muslims (most of them citizens of Saudi Arabia) who said they were waging a holy war against the United States. As a result, some Americans took out their anger on Muslims and Arab-Americans who had had nothing to do with the attacks. Some children were teased or harassed in school; Muslims and Arab-Americans were threatened; in Texas three Muslims were killed.

The site where the Twin Towers came down has been known as Ground Zero ever since, and a memorial has been constructed there. It has become a place for people to go and honor and remember those who were killed that day.

The September 11th attacks changed the course of history. They led to other events that affect our lives today. Airport security has been tightened. Congress passed laws aimed at preventing further acts of terrorism, which critics say have infringed on our civil liberties. And as a result of 9/11 the United States initiated two wars - in Afghanistan and Iraq - in which hundreds of thousands have died.”

Explain that today's class and one that will follow will focus on September 11. Students will have a chance to share what they know, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of this important event.

4. Watch Poem: “First Poem Since” by Suhair Hammad -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDyLNqLHprI> [she curses twice]
  - a. Show this video as a different perspective than the ones often shown. A Muslim, Arab New Yorker with a brother in the US Navy.
5. Review sources on the US and Afghanistan in groups of 3 or 4. Take annotated notes on a google doc and color code your work.
  - a. <https://www.nytimes.com/1988/04/18/world/arming-afghan-guerrillas-a-huge-effort-led-by-us.html>
  - b. <https://apnews.com/article/joe-biden-islamic-state-group-afghanistan-europe-middle-east-70451c485d46908ef5c6a83a1de9f0f6>
  - c. <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians/afghan>
6. **Assessment** - Using evidence from the previously annotated resources, write an essay about the relationship between the United States and Afghanistan and address the following questions
  - a. What role did the United States play in Afghanistan? Explain.
  - b. How has the United States invasion of Afghanistan affected Afghanistan and the United States?
  - c. Should the United States have invaded Afghanistan? Why or why not?