



ILLINOIS HOLOCAUST MUSEUM  
& EDUCATION CENTER

## JOINT STATEMENT FOR EDUCATORS

January 2021

In wake of the attack on our Capitol and the current climate of polarization in our country, educators face the challenging job to help students process the recent events and think critically about the media presence in our society. We must find a way to discuss current events with impartial and unbiased views.

Nelson Mandela famously observed “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” To support teachers, the Educator’s Institute for Human Rights and the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center have curated resources to facilitate difficult discussions in the classroom around media literacy.

These tools contain creative lessons and articles on media ethics, identifying propaganda, leading discussions after a crisis, and teaching controversial issues in the classroom. With these tools, teachers will be equipped to conduct meaningful and informed conversations in the classroom, promoting learning and understanding around this critically important topic.

*Educators know their students, classrooms, and community best. As with any resource, be sure to review and determine which resources best serve your specific circumstances.*

### Advice from Experts:

[How Should Schools Teach Kids About What Happened at the US Capitol on January 6th](#)

*The Conversation*, January 12, 2021

[Leading Conversations After Crisis](#)

*Teaching Tolerance*, January 7, 2021

[Responding to Events at the Capitol](#)

*Facing History and Ourselves*, January 6, 2021

[Response to Events at the Capitol](#)

*Beyond the Spotlight*, January 6, 2021

[Teaching in Times of Crisis](#)

Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, 2001; Revised and updated in April 2013

[What to Say to Kids When the News is Scary](#)

National Public Radio (NPR), January 10, 2020

[White Supremacy and the Attack on the Capitol](#)

Erica Pernell, January 2021

## Resource Collections:

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### [Confronting Hate Toolkit](#)

Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center, generously sponsored by Fifth Third Bank

### [Core Principals for Media Literacy Education in the United States](#)

National Association for Media Literacy in Education, 2021

### [On The Media: Breaking News Consumer's Handbooks](#)

WNYC Studios, various dates

### [Teaching about controversial issues: A resource guide](#)

The Choices Program, Brown University, August 22, 2019

## Lesson Plans:

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### [Are you propaganda proof? Take the Quiz!](#)

Disinformation Nation, 2021

### [Classroom resource: Three ways to teach the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol](#)

PBS NewsHour EXTRA, January 6, 2021

### [Disinformation Nation: Separating Politics & Propaganda](#)

### [Media Ethics: Fairness Formula Starts With Accuracy](#)

### [The Speed of News: Where Do We Get the News](#)

Newseum ED, 2021

### [The Hope and Fragility of Democracy in the US](#)

Facing History and Ourselves, January 15, 2021

### [Lesson Plan: The Fairness Doctrine](#)

C-Span Classroom, August 13, 2013

### [What Is Media Literacy and How Do We Practice It Using Pulitzer Center Reporting?](#)

Pulitzer Center, October 27, 2020

## Tools for Action:

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### [How to Contact Your Elected Officials](#)

Learn how to contact your federal, state, and local elected leaders.

### [Rock the Vote](#)

Rock the Vote is the most trusted and effective nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to building the political power of young people.