



## Resources for Faculty Addressing Traumatic Current Events



The below list of resources are external links that offer guidance specifically about the current situation in Israel and Gaza as well as more general suggestions for discussing traumatic current events in class. Whenever faculty choose to open up these sensitive conversations, a safe and supportive environment is essential in order to guide students in how to talk about emotionally charged, violent events like this in measured, respectful ways.

While challenging to facilitate, faculty can help students:

- understand more about history's connection to modern-day world events
- use media literacy skills to analyze news coverage and social media responses and misinformation
- gain a deeper understanding of multiple perspectives; and
- foster empathy towards those affected.

Note that some of these resources are geared toward a younger audience but will still have relevance for these conversations in the higher education context.

External Links (in no particular order):

[Fostering Civil Discourse: How Do We Talk About Issues That Matter?:](#) This guide from nonprofit Facing History and Ourselves gives educators ideas for how to prepare students to engage in reflective conversations on controversial topics.

[Fears of bigger war grow as Israel-Hamas fighting continues:](#) PBS has created “Daily News Lessons” to guide discussions with students about the Israel-Hamas war using PBS News Hour’s reporting.

[What Is U.S. Policy on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?](#): This guide from the Council on Foreign Relations provides background information behind the conflict and explains what the United States has done to negotiate a resolution to the conflict.

[Teaching Controversial Issues: A Framework for Reflective Practice](#): This guide from Judy Pace, a teacher educator at the University of San Francisco, provides a research-based framework for teaching controversial issues.

[Israel-Hamas War Media Literacy](#): The News Literacy Project has also started collecting misinformation about the war to help readers separate fact from fiction.

[How to Talk About the Israel-Hamas War: Resources for Educators](#): School district information for teachers to lead discussions about this crisis.

[Supporting Youth Affected by the Violence in Israel and Gaza: Tips for Families and Educators](#): Guidance related to the psychological impact on students.

[Guide to Supporting Muslim Students](#): A comprehensive resource collection to learn about Islam and actively counteract Islamophobia.

[Processing Attacks in Israel and the Outbreak of War in the Region | Facing History & Ourselves](#): Lesson plan guidance for establishing reflection time with students and discussing how to follow news stories.

[Making a Difference in the Midst of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Wide Angle: Lesson Plan | PBS LearningMedia](#): This high-school-level lesson plan from PBS explores the history and complexity of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict through videos, websites, and interactive activities that provide more insight into the conflict.

[Handle With Care: Supporting Young People During Crises](#): Learning for Justice, a social justice and activism program for schools, provides ideas to support “meaningful” discussions about emotionally charged topics, such as the Hamas attack on Israel, with young people and potential follow-up steps and responses.

[Conflict in Israel and Palestine](#): Crash Course, an educational YouTube channel, explains the origins of the long-standing conflict in under 13 minutes.

[In brief: Misinformation](#): This infographic from the News Literacy Project provides an overview of the pervasive use of misinformation and how people can be more critical readers of news and other information.