

Title or Topic of Lesson: How do different religions affect people's views on death/life?

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Grade level/class: 9-12th Grade and beyond

Overview and Purpose of the Lesson:

The purpose of this activity is to engage students to

1. reflect on their religious beliefs, if any, with regards to death
2. project their views from death to living
3. share personal experiences on deaths (with regards to family, societal such as COVID-19 deaths, George Floyd's death, and/or mass deaths)
4. understand that there is sometimes, non-closure in discussing certain topics and it can be a long journey to explore from different perspectives

Performance Objectives: (from the year's standards for your subject)

The student will be able to:

1. engage in conversations about their views on deaths (personal and societal)
2. explore and share how religious beliefs may (not) influence people's views on death and living

Materials Needed:

Materials from Dar al Islam Teachers Institute 2020:

[Life After Death in Islamic Tradition](#)

[Islam, Judaism, and Christianity Presentation by Dr. Khalid Blankinship](#)

Websites: [Hinduism - Origins, Facts & Beliefs - HISTORY](#)

Movie Clip: [My Reincarnation: My Son is the Reincarnation of My Uncle](#)

Article: [Death and dying-a Muslim perspective](#)

Time (projected):

1-2 periods of 45 minutes

Activities Description /Procedure: GAME PLAN

1. Students answer guiding questions individually.
2. Students form heterogeneous groups of different religious beliefs and/or no belief.
3. Each group will explore given materials and conduct additional research on a religion and to fill out the group activity table. They will write their findings on a chart paper.
4. The whole class conducts a gallery walk and writes comments on post-it notes.
5. Groups share out and discuss. Students are also encouraged to share their individual reflection on the guiding questions.

Adaptation:

The research materials can be in different formats: texts, films, pictures, artwork, etc to provide multiple entry points.

Extension:

Student groups are encouraged to present in different media as well: an essay, a PowerPoint presentation, a song, a poem, a video, a live clip, a debate, etc.

Assessments:

1. Group presentation
2. Students will write a reflection on the classroom experience and pose any topics they will explore further.

Student Handouts or Study Materials:

1.1 Individual Handout:

Guiding Questions

Please note that you may not have answers for all of the following questions. This exercise aims to help you start thinking about them. When you listen and/or share with your classmates, you will realize that different people have different beliefs, viewpoints, and opinions. We do it to learn to respect multiple perspectives. You have a choice to share with your group, the whole class, and/or just me. Please put all your thoughts in writing and I will be collecting them.

1. Do you have any religion? If yes, what is it? How do you acquire that religion?

2. Have you experienced deaths in your family and circles of friends? How do you feel about death?

3. We all have heard about COVID-19 death tolls in the US and in the world. How do you feel about that? You can also comment on how you feel about mass deaths due to war, migration transfer, genocide, etc.

4. What about the death of a certain race? Like Black people George Floyd, Eric Garner, Breonna Taylor, Aiyana MoNay Stanley-Jones, to name a few.

5. Do you think religious beliefs influence your view on death? If not, who/what has influenced you?

6. If you have a certain view on death, will this view affect your view on living? How?

7. Share any other related thinking and connection you may have.

1.2 Student Group Handouts:

<p style="text-align: center;">Exploring the Religion of (Each group chooses from Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and Hinduism)</p> <p>Directions: Complete the table below with information from your research and given materials. Since spiritual beliefs often vary, you may discover sources with conflicting information. Such differences illustrate the complexity of religious studies. Please be sure to consult multiple sources during your investigation, and list each source accordingly.</p>
Followers Worldwide (approximate):
God(s) and Human Relationship:
What happens after death?

Views on Living:

Additional Notes:

Sources: