

EDUCATOR SUBMITTED LESSON PLAN
Investigating Media Bias against Israel

SUBJECT AND GRADE LEVEL

Investigating Media Bias Against Israel; 10th to 12th Grade

AUTHOR(S)

Rabbi Stu Gershon (2015)

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

For a variety of reasons, media sources have adopted a rigidly negative (or positive) narrative about Israel irrespective of the truth/full story. The consumer of Israel news will evaluate media coverage of Israel with a critical lens.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

- What are the ways that the media reflects anti-Israel bias?

OBJECTIVES:

Students will:

- Be able to identify media bias in 1. Language uses 2. In the right context 3. Fake photography

ASSESSMENT:

- Ask students to identify bias in specific examples of media coverage.

MATERIALS

- Matti Friedman article, "An Insider's Guide to the Most Important Story on Earth," from *Tablet Magazine* (August 26, 2014), Tuvia Grossman picture and article, "Victim of the Media War." *Aish* (November 4, 2000); BBC video that exposes fake Gaza images (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnO4gy8dQIc>)

ACTIVITIES AND PROCEDURES

- I. Read article by Friedman. Why does the media give disproportionate negative coverage to Israel's behavior while ignoring to report in the behavior of other nations/conflicts?
- II. Show BBC video exposing fake Gaza images, show Tuvia Grossman picture and explain (or read) article.
 - a. Does the media have a responsibility to confirm the facts behind images it publishes?
 - b. Why would media outlets assume that fact checking, that the aggressor must be Israeli and the victim Palestinian?
- III. Conclusion
 - a. Those sympathetic to Palestinian cause will intentionally seek to deceive in order to win public opinion.
 - b. Media coverage of Israel should not be blindly trusted but critically examined.