



Who Is a Jew? You Tube Style! By Sarah Pew

Subject Area: Jewish Identity & Community Building

Multi-unit lesson

Target Age Group: High School

Objectives:

1. Have students determine their personal definition of a Jew
2. Allow students to see multiple Jews and discover the many different ways of being Jewish
3. Give students a safe space to discuss their views and values of being Jewish
4. Present to students that there is no right or wrong answer to the question "Who is a Jew?" and the most important thing is to define it for themselves

Lesson timeline:

Class one: Student's personal definition of a Jew

Class two: View different You Tube Clips of Jews around the world

Class three (and possibly four): Create own You Tube clip of the class' general definition of a Jew

CLASS ONE:

Materials: Paper; Pen; Open mind; Markers

Procedure:

1. Open class by discussing a "traditional definition" of a Jew
 - a. One whose mother is Jewish
 - b. One who goes through the proper process of conversion
2. Ask the students to start throwing out ideas of what it means to be Jewish
 - a. There are no "right" or "wrong" answers at this point. For many people the definition of Jewish involves physical attributes. Rather than rebuking these stereotypes, embrace them and discuss with the students from where these stereotypes might come.
3. Have students write down on their piece of paper at least THREE reasons why they are Jewish.
4. Ask the class to share their reasons for considering themselves Jewish and compile the most common answers into a list for the class.
5. Save this list for class two.



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CLASS TWO:

Materials: Computer or other multi-media device to show You Tube clips (these are suggested You Tube clips – as You Tube changes daily, feel free to search for your own clips of people who might be considered Jewish or who consider themselves Jewish. A good keyword is “Jew”)

1. Borat – Throw the Jew Down the Well
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vb3IMTJzfo>
2. The Nose Job Jew <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbezJZNYcyE>
3. Jew Convert to Islam <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NI6ye91-xSE>
4. Trick or Treat – Self Loathing Jew
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhedESQJhAA>
5. Who is a Jew <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeNge8f58dU>
6. True Israeli http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woXH80EXi_s&watch_response
7. True Israeli Goes to the Army – commercial
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDHW1H6Nb5U>

Procedure:

1. Remind students of their collective definition of a Jew based on the previous class.
2. Show all the clips you have chosen to the class.
 - a. Depending on your class, there is no need to introduce these clips.
3. After you have shown all the clips discuss with the students who is the most Jewish, who is the least Jewish and why.
4. Some questions to lead you in your discussion:
 - a. Who out of these clips do you feel was the most Jewish?
 - b. Who out of these clips do you feel was the least Jewish?
 - c. With whom did you relate most?
 - d. With whom did you relate least?
 - e. Did any of these clips bother you?
 - f. Can all of the people featured in these clips call themselves Jewish?
 - g. What makes a person Jewish?
 - h. How do you show your Judaism?
 - i. After watching all these videos, how has your definition of a Jew changed?
5. Have them write down their “new” definition of a Jew.
 - a. At this point, be sure to let the students know that it’s okay to be unsure and think many different aspects are okay. It’s also okay to feel sure in their personal definition of a Jew.



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6. Close the class by restating that there are many different types of Jews and while it is not the student's responsibility to find the global definition of being Jewish it's always good to define it for themselves.

CLASS THREE/FOUR/FIVE

Materials: Paper; Pens; Video Camera; Microphone; Costumes; Props

Procedure: Depending on the size of your class, the interest of the students and the amount of time, this next section can take between one and three classes to complete.

Be sure to give yourself enough time!

1. Remind the students about what was discussed over the course of the past two classes
2. Explain to them that they will now be making their own You Tube video about "What is a Jew"
 - a. This video can be serious, humorous, just talking or an entire skit – the creative aspect should be left up entirely to the class
 - b. For larger classes, this project can be divided into groups – each group will let you know what their focus is
3. Have each group choose their focus
 - a. Statement of "Who Is a Jew"
 - b. Description of many different types of Jews
 - c. Skit depicting one "type" of Jew
 - d. Anything they can think of
4. Work with students to write out script for the video
5. Have students practice their skit so that it is memorized, they can do it without giggling and it is presentable
6. Video-tape each skit
7. Show videos to entire class (possibly entire school)
8. Take a vote with class to determine if they want to post it on You Tube
 - a. Make sure you have your school's, the students' and their parents' permission before you post the videos online