



## Islamic Speakers Bureau Tips for Teachers #1

### The Potential Impact of Personal Views on Current Events Relating to the War on Terrorism and the Middle East

As an educator, consider the potential impact of your personal views on current events relating to the war on terrorism and the Middle East. Could they affect your academic responsibility to be objective and neutral in your role as an educator?

#### FACTORS TO CONSIDER

1. If your knowledge of Middle Eastern culture or the Islamic faith is based mostly on what you've seen or heard on television or through other media sources, then please consider seeking more accurate information from objective or primary sources. We recommend the following websites and resources.

#### Readings on Islam

- *Who Speaks For Islam?: What a Billion Muslims Really Think*, John L. Esposito
- *Understanding Islam and the Muslims: The Muslim Family and Islam and World Peace*, T.J. Winter and John A. Williams
- *The Vision of Islam (Visions of Reality. Understanding Religions)*, Sachiko Murata and William C. Chittick
- *IslamiCity Web Resources*, <http://www.islamicity.com/education>
- *Teaching About Islam and Muslims in the Public School Classroom*, Council on Islamic Education (CIE). [http://www.cie.org/ItemDetail.aspx?id=N&m\\_id=27&cat\\_id=23&item\\_id=66](http://www.cie.org/ItemDetail.aspx?id=N&m_id=27&cat_id=23&item_id=66)
- *View of National Media Coverage Relating to Iraq*, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), <http://www.fair.org/international/iraq.html>
- *News Articles by Leading Journalists and Editors in the Middle East*, ArabNet, <http://www.arab.net/>

#### Books on Portrayals of Arabs and Muslims in Popular Culture

- *The TV Arab*, Jack Shaheen
- *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People*, Jack Shaheen
- *Guilty: Hollywood's Verdict on Arabs After 9/11*, Jack Shaheen

2. If you generally view Middle Easterners, Arabs and Muslims or their beliefs and practices in a negative way, then please consider either inviting a guest speaker into the classroom or taking part in open staff discussions with a knowledgeable resource person who can answer your questions or address your concerns. We recommend speakers from the Islamic Speakers Bureau, a program of ING. ING is a nonprofit, educational organization founded in 1993 that promotes interreligious understanding, tolerance and harmony by increasing religious literacy. To schedule an on-site presentation, simply complete the online form at [www.ing.org/speakers/request.asp](http://www.ing.org/speakers/request.asp) or email ING at [scheduler@ing.org](mailto:scheduler@ing.org).

3. If you feel afraid or suspicious of students and/or parents who are of Middle Eastern or Muslim background, acknowledge your fears by communicating those feelings to an administrator or school counselor who can provide you with the necessary help and support.

4. Irrespective of your views towards the war in Iraq or other U.S. policies relating to the war on terrorism, teachers should allow for questions and differences of opinion in the classroom, which must be grounded in civil discourse and mutual respect. Teachers should never encourage a particular viewpoint but rather provide the intellectual environment and learning process for students to come to their own conclusions about current events. Inviting speakers to the classroom might be a way to include varied perspectives.

*The Islamic Speakers Bureau is a program of ING, a nonprofit, educational organization founded in 1993 that promotes interreligious understanding, tolerance and harmony by increasing religious literacy. Through the Islamic Speakers Bureau program, more than 700 educational presentations about Islam and Muslims are delivered annually to schools, universities, law enforcement agencies, healthcare facilities, corporations and other institutions.*

**To schedule an educational presentation for your students, simply complete the online form at [www.ing.org/speakers/request.asp](http://www.ing.org/speakers/request.asp) or email ING at [scheduler@ing.org](mailto:scheduler@ing.org). Please allow up to two weeks to schedule a presentation.**

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