

Hate in Canadian Society: Is the Justice System Helping? Donald Worme

Lesson Plan: Civics 10; Law 11; Law 12; Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology 11; Challenge and Change in Society 12

Clip length: 11:35 minutes

Estimated Time: 45 minutes

Lesson Steps

- Discuss Pre-viewing Questions with students
- View 11 minute video clip
- Discuss Post-Viewing Questions
- Divide class into small groups and assign one of the three research questions
- Have students complete final reflection activity, either individually, as a homework assignment or as a class discussion

Pre-Viewing Questions

- 1) How do we define hatred?
- 2) What examples can you think of in Canadian law that relate to hatred?
- 3) Why is it important to define what we mean by hatred and identify the way in which it manifests itself?

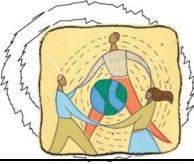
Post-Viewing Discussion

- 1) What lessons can be learned from the Aboriginal community when it comes to dealing with issues of hatred?
- 2) How can the Canadian legal community work to reduce hatred in society?

Activity

In small groups have students complete one or all of the following Internet research activities and report their findings to the class.

1) Have students explore the Criminal Code of Canada (available online) and look for hate-related offences. How does the law address these issues? Have students list the sections of the Criminal Code that attempt to protect against hatred.



Combating Hatred in the 21st Century



2) Research the current state of human rights legislation in Canada. How do these pieces of legislation address the problem of hatred? Have students find one online opinion in favour of the recent reforms to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and one online opinion opposed to the reforms.

3) Research the ways that Canadian Aboriginal justice systems have cultivated a respectful society. What traditional activities or punishments have enforced rules against hateful treatment? How do these differ from one First Nation to another? How have these principles been incorporated into the Canadian legal tradition, if at all?

Individual Reflection or Class Reflection

Identify incidents within your school/community/city/country in which “hatred” has led to legal problems? Brainstorm strategies for preventing such incidents. Identify how the Aboriginal principles discussed in the video clip offer options for avoiding legal incidents about hate.

Speaker Profile: Donald Worme

Donald Worme is a Senior Partner at Semaganis Worme Law Office, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He is engaged in private practice and has extensive and varied experience in criminal and aboriginal law litigation. He has acquired expertise in providing legal advice to Treaty Land Entitlement Trusts in Saskatchewan.

Clip Summary

Mr. Worme discusses the nature and impact of racism and hatred with a specific focus on the distinction between an abstract definition and the manifestation thereof. He discusses the principles brought to a community by the Aboriginal peoples, specifically love and respect. He points out that while Canadian law focuses on what not to do, Aboriginal principles illustrate what one should do.

Related OJEN Resources (www.ojen.ca)

Landmark Case Package: *R. v. Keegstra*