



Understanding the 3D's of Media Bias

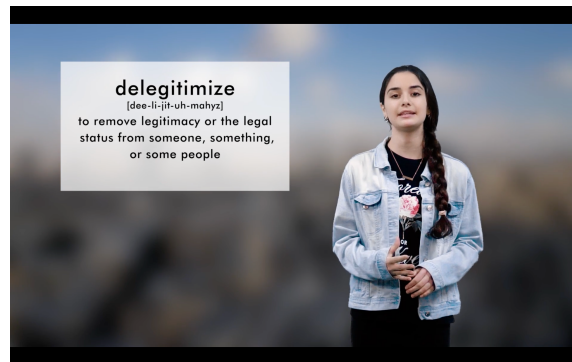
Goal: Using Natan Sharansky's 3D Test, students will be able to differentiate between anti-Israel bias and legitimate criticism of Israel in media sources.

Objectives:

- Students will understand and be able to identify an example of a **D**ouble standard against Israel in a media source.
- Students will understand and be able to identify an example of the **D**elegitimization of Israel in a media source.
- Students will understand and be able to identify an example of the **D**emonization of Israel in a media source.

Natan Sharansky, Israeli politician, human rights activist, and survivor of imprisonment in the Soviet Union, developed "The 3D's Test" to discern whether conversations regarding the State of Israel are legitimate criticism or antisemitism.

Here is a [video](#) to introduce your students to The 3D's Test



Resources:

1. [What is Hamas, and Why Did it Attack Israel](#) (The Wall Street Journal)
2. [What to Know on the Sixth Day of the Israel-Hamas War](#) (Associated Press)
3. [Video](#) (CNN)

What are The 3D's and examples:

Delegitimization – Discrediting a group from society to inflict harm, removing the legal status of something or someone.

Example: claiming Jews have no claim to the State of Israel.

Demonization – The portrayal of something as wicked and threatening.

Example: Israel purposely and viciously hurts people.

Double Standard – A set of principles that applies differently to one group of people over another.

Example: Holding Israel to a standard to which other countries are not held.

Below you will find two articles and a video.

Examine each one, and see if you can find which “D” each corresponds to.

Article 1:

[What is Hamas, and Why Did it Attack Israel](#) (The Wall Street Journal)

Double Standard – the use of language is giving moral equivalency. Was the same treatment given to Ukraine vis a vis the Russian invasion?

- Conflict – *This is not a “conflict”. Israel was brutally attacked on its holy Shabbat and Simchat Torah and is defending itself from even more violence*
- Hamas is said to be a “militant group.” *Hamas is a terrorist group*
- “Hamas...fought four wars against Israel...” *It has terrorized the State of Israel – “fought four wars” indicates that there is moral equivalency*
- “Hamas is dedicated to the creation of an independent Palestinian state. It has signaled it is willing to accept a two-state solution based on borders that existed before 1967, but in recent years friction with Israel has steadily grown.” *This is a lie – the Hamas Charter calls for the destruction of the Jewish State. In addition, the “friction with Israel” indicates moral equivalency*

Article 2:

[What to Know on the Sixth Day of the Israel-Hamas War](#) (Associated Press)

Demonization – Leading with Israel as the aggressor without any reference to the cause of the incursion

Double Standard – Moral equivalency

- “The Israeli military pulverized the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip with airstrikes and kept blocking deliveries of food, water, fuel, and electricity”... *No mention whatsoever as to why this is happening in the first place.*
- “The war has claimed at least 2,700 lives on both sides.” *To equate the loss of life on both sides as equal is a double standard. The terrorists murdered innocents – the blame lies squarely on them. There is no “both sides”.*
- “The Israeli military said it is currently targeting Hamas’ senior military and political leaders, whom it blames for the weekend attack.” *To call it a “weekend attack” is to downplay what it actually was – a murderous, heinous pogrom.*
- “In addition to citing long-simmering tensions, Hamas officials cite a long-running dispute over the sensitive Al-Aqsa Mosque that is sacred to both Muslims and Jews. Competing claims over the site, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, have spilled into violence before, including a bloody 11-day war between Israel and Hamas in 2021”. *This has absolutely nothing to do with the atrocities that were thrust upon the people of Israel.*

[Video](#) (CNN)

Delegitimization – The interviewee blatantly lied and discredited the Jewish State

- " Hamas wants to be treated as a regular state & wants to sit down and talk peace with the Israelis, but that means a compromise on both sides. The Israelis have never been willing to compromise before." *This is a blatant lie. The Israelis have come to the table offering a peace deal many times before, and each time, they were rejected. This is discrediting the validity and honest pursuance of peace of the State of Israel.*