



Our Mission

Axis of Hope is a non-profit organization dedicated to developing in young adults an understanding of alternative, non-violent approaches to resolving complex conflicts locally, nationally and internationally.

Axis of Hope seeks to change the landscape of conflict and to create the prospect of future peace:

By fostering effective global citizenship skills in students and teachers of diverse backgrounds.

By promoting intensive, hands-on learning opportunities through "intellectual Outward Bound" geo-political role-play case studies.

By teaching the world's youth to develop trust, compassion and empathy for one another, and for people around the world.



A Revolution of Conflict Resolution

Axis of Hope teaches middle and high school students of diverse backgrounds about conflict analysis, management and prevention in ways that enliven the imagination, awaken moral reasoning, and impart lifelong social and civic skills. Through highly interactive workshops in public and independent schools, Axis of Hope introduces students to the study of international conflict. Interactive workshops, such as one using our "Whose Jerusalem" Case Study, introduce students to current world conflicts and foster the development of valuable negotiation skills.

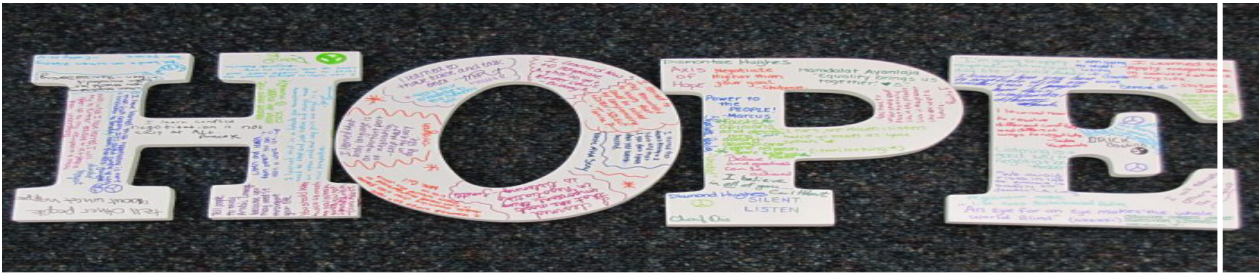


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axis of Hope

Student Workshops





Student Workshop

BACKGROUND

Geopolitical conflict has always existed and will continue to exist in the world, stressing the need to impart 'preventive diplomacy' skills to all global citizens. Axis of Hope (AoH) seeks to teach these skills to our youth both in the United States and internationally. AoH instills global consciousness into middle and high school curricula, as well as teaches them important 21st century skills. This process affords the students the opportunity to form an understanding of, and compassion for, others in areas of conflict. These traits are cultivated in our workshop participants so that they can later employ these new faculties in their everyday lives, as well as become more effective global citizens.



COMPONENTS OF STUDENT WORKSHOPS

Preparation

Each case study includes materials, focusing on specific geo-political conflicts: conflict history, glossary of key terms, and chronology. These are used at the educators' discretion to introduce students to the topics and issues that will be discussed in the workshop;

Teachers are asked to divide students into six groups, which will later represent the six sides of the case study.

Workshop

- The AoH workshop facilitator uses: ice breaker and team building exercises designed to encourage students to work together;
- Offers brief review and discussion of the conflict;
- Presents confidential instructions to the students, which familiarizes them with the side they will be representing;
- Over several rounds of negotiations between groups, during which time students work towards a final agreement and peace proposal, which will then be sent to elected officials relevant to the issue discussed.
- Directs reflection and debriefing sessions about negotiation strategies and conflict management, resolution and prevention goals.

Case Study Design

Axis of Hope uses its unique case study approach to bring matters of international importance right into the middle school and high school classroom. These case studies are thoughtfully constructed so as to avoid biases or prejudices and present only the facts. Furthermore, they are designed to promote interactive learning so that each case study includes not just the case study's history, but also its chronology, a glossary of important terms, and six different possible roles to take on. Each of the six different roles offer their own unique perspective on the conflict, and they are what allow our students to empathize with the involved parties, walk in the shoes of others and eventually adopt a position from which they can then negotiate throughout the workshop – even if they may not agree with their given position.

