

JERUSALEM U'S 5 BEST PRACTICES OF ISRAEL EDUCATION

SET THE STAGE

Before you start a lesson, make sure the physical space is conducive to meaningful learning. Play Israeli music, bring in snacks, place desks and seats in a way that allows for stimulating discussion.

ENCOURAGE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

Foster an environment that invites meaningful, even controversial, conversations. Challenge your students to dig deeper and to explore multiple aspects of a problem. Do not shy away from tough topics, and make sure students have a safe space to express their opinion.

ZOOM OUT

Context matters. Too often, “the Middle East conflict” becomes synonymous with the “Arab-Israeli conflict” or the “Palestinian-Israeli conflict.” Part of our job as educators is to encourage students to learn about Israel and her neighbors, including their histories and political realities.

APPEAL TO EMOTIONS

Remember the rule: “Emotion decides, reason justifies.” A good discussion appeals not only to peoples’ minds, but also to their hearts. If students are not moved, they probably won’t act, no matter how many facts they absorb. Accompany knowledge with stories, pictures and films. Jerusalem U’s feature-length documentary films, including *Beneath the Helmet* and *Israel Inside*, are examples of immersive experiences that get students to really care.

WORDS MATTER

Encourage students to pay attention to words. Words can teach us about a person’s or a media outlet’s agenda. Do they call it the “West Bank” or “Judaea and Samaria”? Is Hamas a “terrorist” or a “militant” group? Etc.
