

No Place for Hate[®] Activity Library

Pyramid of Hate

Lesson Plan and Overview

Gain knowledge of the impact of antisemitism and the tendency of such hateful ideas to escalate when unchecked.

Grade Level

Grades 6-8

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Increase their understanding of the Pyramid of Hate through examples of antisemitism.
- Develop an understanding of the potential for antisemitism to escalate when it is not addressed.
- Reflect on how they can act as allies to interrupt hate and antisemitism at different levels of the Pyramid.

Materials Needed

- **Pyramid of Hate Mini-Lesson:**
 - Individual participation: students will need computers, tablets, etc. and headphones (or closed captions enabled) to access.
 - Full class participation: ability to project the Pyramid of Hate mini-lesson for the class to participate in.
- **Pyramid of Allyship Handouts**, 1 for each participant
- **Pyramid of Allyship: Educator Reference Sheet** (ONLY for educators)

Words You Might Use

It is important to ground any conversation about identity and experience through shared definitions. Consider the topic that you will be discussing with your students and ensure that terms are defined so all students approach the conversation from the same place.

Antisemitism (for educators): Prejudice, discrimination, or hostility directed at Jewish people. It is generally based on negative stereotypes, myths, or misinformation about Jews, Judaism, or Jewish identity. It manifests in harmful beliefs, attitudes, language, exclusion, harassment, and violence against individuals or Jewish communities. (For students) Hatred of Jewish people as individuals or as a group.

Core Activity

• Introduction

- Begin by introducing the purpose of the activity and framing the Pyramid of Hate lesson.
- Suggested Script: *The Pyramid of Hate provides a way to explain and examine escalation of bias to hate. It is a tool to help us to reflect and discuss the consequences of bias-motivated thinking and behavior. Each level of the pyramid offers new opportunities to intervene and disrupt such behavior. The Pyramid of Hate is designed to show us how ideas and words, when left unchecked, matter: when people accept one level of behavior, it becomes easier to accept behaviors on the next level as “normal.”*

• Pyramid of Hate Mini-Lesson

- Have students participate in the Pyramid of Hate mini-lesson. This lesson takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and can be done individually (with headphones) or as a class.

• Debrief

- After students have explored the Pyramid of Hate, ask them:
 - *What does the Pyramid of Hate suggest about insensitive and hateful words and ideas that go unchecked? Why do you think this is important to know?*

• Pyramid of Allyship

- Distribute the Pyramid of Allyship handout to each student. If possible, display the Pyramid on the board or screen as well.
- Suggested script: *Now that we’ve explored the Pyramid of Hate and how words and ideas can escalate if left unchecked, let’s take some time to consider ways that we can act as allies at the different levels of the pyramid to interrupt hate before it can grow.*
- Ask: *Where on the pyramid is it easier to interrupt? (Make sure students understand that it is easier to interrupt hate at the bottom of the pyramid while still “ideas”; consider also differentiating for students what allyship might look like in friend groups (interpersonal) or within larger communities (systemic).*
- Before allowing students to work in small groups, solicit one example for each layer of the Pyramid of Allyship with students as a full class to ensure they understand the activity. (Consider using the Pyramid of Allyship: Educator Reference Sheet for help).
- Allow students time in small groups to brainstorm allyship ideas and fill in the Pyramid of Allyship handout.
- If time allows, let each group share the ideas they brainstormed together before transitioning to the closing, reflection questions.

- **Reflection Questions**

- *Why is it important to interrupt hateful ideas like antisemitism at the lower levels of the pyramid?*
- *Why is it sometimes challenging to speak out or stand up against bias and hate? Where or who can you ask for support?*
- *Why do you think many people remain silent in the face of bias and hate?*
- *When you see the first levels of the Pyramid of Hate, in your school or community, what can you do?*

Optional Follow-Up/ Going Further

Note: These additional activities can be done as follow-ups to the core activity and they can also serve as an additional NPFH activity if the core activity is completed first.

- Now that students have completed the core lesson and learned about both the Pyramid of Hate and the Pyramid of Allyship, play a clip from the mini-lesson focusing on **online hate**. Ask students to reflect and consider how they can respond to and interrupt hate like antisemitism when they see it online? Discuss strategies to act as allies in digital spaces, while also staying safe.
- After students have completed the core lesson and learned about both the Pyramid of Hate and the Pyramid of Allyship, direct students to reflect on their learning from the lower two levels of the Pyramid of Hate—Biased Attitudes and Acts of Bias—along with the strategies they came up with from the Pyramid of Allyship. Have students visit elementary school classes to read picture books that cover similar themes of standing up against bullying and hate. Picture books might include: *Sharing Shalom* by Danielle Sharkan; *The Juice Box Bully* by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismondy; *I Walk with Vanessa* by Kerascoët.
- Once students have completed the core lesson and learned about both the Pyramid of Hate and the Pyramid of Allyship, direct them to make posters of their strategies from the Pyramid of Allyship. These can then be displayed around the school to remind the school community of the importance of interrupting hateful ideas and behaviors before they have the opportunity to progress.

Home Connection

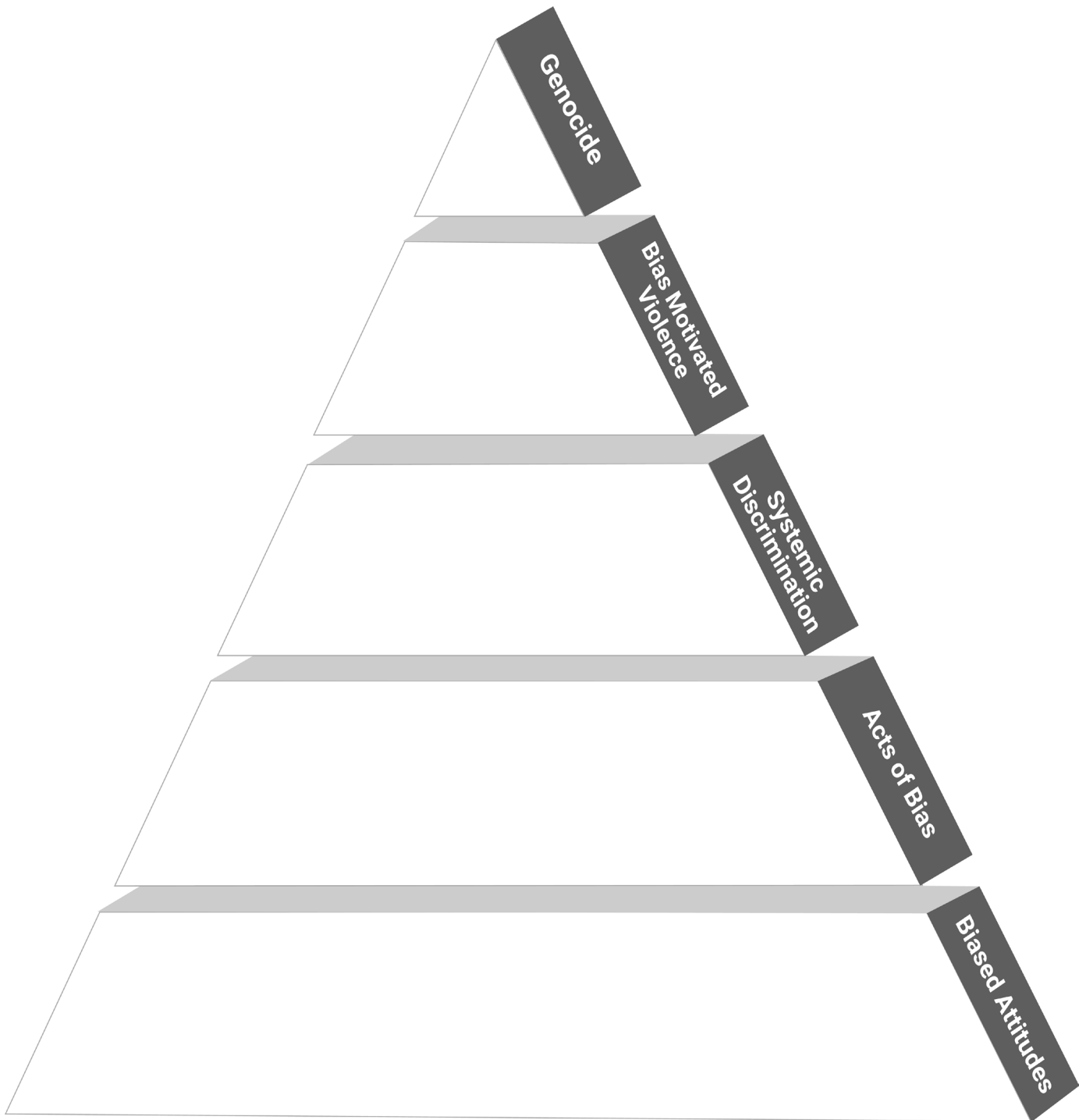
Share ADL's **Pyramid of Hate Mini-Lesson** with parents, along with the Table Talk: **Antisemitism Today**.

How Activity Meets NPFH Requirements

Students will learn about how hateful ideas and biases like antisemitism can escalate through the Pyramid of Hate mini-lesson and model. They will then explore different ways people can act as allies in order to address and challenge antisemitism at early stages of the Pyramid. This will help set a foundation for exploring other systems of bias and how students can engage in allyship and action in order to make a difference.

PYRAMID OF ALLYSHIP WORKSHEET

Consider ways you can act as an ally to support targets of bias, speak out against hate and take action to address social injustices.



PYRAMID OF ALLYSHIP: Educator Reference Sheet

