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Understanding Terrorism Through the Use of GIS

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Understanding Terrorism Through the Use of GIS

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Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders

Challenges in HS:

➤ Memory of 9/11 is fading.

- ❑ Time heals all,
- ❑ Ground zero effect lingers, yet...

Two different groups:

- ❖ Those who lived through it, and
- ❖ Those too young to remember.

Redesign Course

- Verizon Foundation provided funds to use technology to enhance the learning experience.
- Redesigned course entitled “Terrorism and Society.”

Rationale for Redesign

- Lack of knowledge re terrorism
- Lack of interest in the topic
- I wanted to change the class from a passive learning experience to active.

Terrorism and Society

- Usual start: What do you think this course is about?
- Solicit memories of 9/11
- Show *In Memoriam*, by HBO

Strategy to deal with Terrorism?

➤ *Terrorism and Public Policy*, Forst, 2008:

- ✓ War,
- ✓ Diplomacy,
- ✓ Investigative

Key Component

➤ Intelligence

Each strategy, war, diplomacy and investigative, requires information.

➤ What is information?

➤ What is “intelligence?”

Intelligence

Collection of Information:

- Library,
- Social networking, e.g., twitter, Facebook, etc.
- Open source documents

Collecting Information

Step 1: Spreadsheet with 12 columns:

- Location,
- Type of attack,
- Fatalities,
- Longitude & latitude,
- Etc..

Mapping

Google maps:

- Transfer spreadsheet info to Google maps.
- Weekly briefings in class

Results

- Passive learning to active learning
- Extent of open source information
- Geography lessons: Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India next to each.
- “Best presentation, Open Source.”
- Socratic method, Best class ever
- Respectful

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