

## RESOURCES TO SUPPORT HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH STUDENTS IN TIMES OF SOCIAL UNREST

*Engaging students productively around controversial and emotionally charged topics can be a challenging task. The resources below have been compiled to provide educators tools to navigate civil classroom conversations related to the violence at the U.S. Capitol.*

### Elementary Resources

Anti-Defamation League's Books Matter: The Best Kid Lit on Bias, Diversity and Social Justice. The books selected teach about bias and prejudice, promote respect for diversity, encourage social action.  
<https://www.sutori.com/story/the-breaking-news--NcS5ECxjzNruBgSGrSF51ovy>

National Education Association guidance on talking to kids about the attack on the Capitol.  
<https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/talking-kids-about-attack-capitol>

### Secondary Resources

The PBS Newshour Extra includes video and a summary along with three lesson plans to discuss the events on January 6th. There are also links to additional resources.  
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/daily-videos/classroom-resource-insurrection-at-the-u-s-capitol/>

Facing History and Ourselves includes lesson ideas for understanding what happened at the Capitol and why. Concrete strategies such as the Iceberg Diagram are included as well as links to additional resources.  
<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events/what-happened-during-insurrection-us-capitol-why?cacheclear=1>

### Multiple Grade Levels

The NYC Department of Education "Civics for All" resource guide provides teacher facing resources to support holding conversations with students following the insurrection at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021.  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/153wtSu6qDFBsJP5VvEiOY6lGXoCSSsJX/view>

American Federation of Teachers "Share my Lesson" resources help to facilitate meaningful discussions with students and communities about the attempt to infiltrate the Capitol. This includes a focus on the crucial foundations of democracy.  
<https://sharemylesson.com/democracy>

## For Young Children, Preschool-Kindergarten

*During times of tragedy and difficulty in the news, we may think that children are unaware of what is happening. However, children are more aware - than we know and are especially sensitive to the moods and conversations of adults around them. Below are some ideas and considerations for supporting children when the news in the world is difficult.*

- *When the world feels uncertain and the news is scary, we can help children feel safe by letting children know we will always care for them and love them, no matter what.*
- Be mindful of what children hear and see on the news. Children can overhear media and conversations that are not intended for them. It is best that they learn from a trusted adult, through meaningful and intentional conversations.
- Let children know you are always open to their questions. Before you answer it can help to ask the child, "What do you think?" or "What have you heard?" Sometimes, children may understand more than we realize, may have misinformation, or may have a much simpler question than we assume. If you know more about what the child is wondering, it can help you give a simple and honest answer.
- It's okay if you don't know an answer to the child's question. You can let them know, "I wonder about that, too" and that you will share as you learn more. It can help to ask the child more about what they are feeling. Simply listening to the child's feelings around their uncertainty can help them feel safe.
- Let children know that their feelings are always safe with you, whether they are feeling worried, angry, sad, or anything at all. As Fred Rogers reminds us, "anything that's human is mentionable, and anything that's mentionable can be more manageable."
- Difficult news takes a toll on all of us. To care for the children in our lives, it is important to care for ourselves. Set boundaries around your own news intake, take moments to rest, and find a support network for yourself.

This information is from the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children's Media.  
<https://www.fredrogerscenter.org>

## Parent Resources from Common Sense Media

This resource provides age-based tips and questions to have conversations as a family about disturbing events.  
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog/talking-to-kids-about-the-violence-at-the-us-capitol>