

Touchy About the Truth

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Should children learning about the history of the United States be spared acquaintance with the facts?

I don't think so. But teaching facts sure can get you into trouble. A California middle school teacher showed students a five-minute video produced by a conservative organization, PragerU, about 9/11.

Statements like these by the young narrator are somehow controversial: "Nineteen Islamic terrorists, organized by the terrorist group that calls itself al Qaeda, directed by its leader, Osama bin Laden, and drawn from four Arab countries, also boarded planes that morning. . . . Within an hour after takeoff, these 19 terrorists would hijack the planes, brutally murder defenseless stewardesses and pilots, and killed 3,000 innocent people."

In other words, what happened, as those of us around at the time remember.

Also controversial, the conclusion that America must resist its enemies: "We will always be faced with a choice: to surrender our freedoms or to preserve them. . . ."

Plenty in the video to debate, I'm sure. So let the students debate.

But opponents of remembering 9/11 and who was officially determined responsible have attacked the Bernardo Heights Middle School, "bizarrely accusing the teacher of sharing a 'graphic' video,"explains *Breitbart*, "that they say 'harped' on 'Islamic terror.'"

An outfit called freefamilybookswap complains about all the topics not covered in the *five-minute* video, and "demands" a "public written apology" from the school, as well as "mandatory anti-Muslim and anti-Arab bias training" with "Muslim and Arab families" "included in curriculum review."

Not only should we remember 9/11, schools should remember that their job is teaching, not bowing to pressure from those offended by facts.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.