



# Character Education Resource Center News You Can Use

September 2017

*No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion.*  
--Nelson Mandela

## CHARLOTTESVILLE: A MOST TEACHABLE MOMENT

*"If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."*

Heather Heyer's final Facebook post before she was killed on Saturday

*"Violence and hate will never be the answer. We must engage, debate, and educate."*

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in an email to her staff spoke out against the racist views demonstrated at the recent rally in Charlottesville, VA

*"e3 Civic High is shocked and saddened by recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia. While we remain deeply committed to freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, it is important for us to reaffirm our school's position against hate speech and violence. Simply put, there is no place in our society for those who would single out one or more members of our community to be the target of hatred and violent acts. The KKK and White Supremacist groups were out in force in Charlottesville to support the continuing celebration of the Confederacy and its war to keep African Americans enslaved. These groups were joined by Anti-Semitic marchers supporting neo-Nazism. Our nation cannot and should not tolerate such hatred and denigration of any segments of our population."*

Dr. Helen V. Griffeth, CEO/Executive Director of e3 Civic High

## YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Experts recommend administrators provide support and professional development to teachers on addressing difficult subjects.

<http://www.educationdiver.com/news/districts-start-school-year-with-thoughts-on-how-to-handle-charlottesville/449474/>

## YOUR CLASSROOM

### Give it Five

Analyze the event by having students participate in a Give it Five (GIF) activity. Students trace their hand and write the who, what, when, where, and how of the story on each finger. The palm of the hand answers the big question of Why? GIF is a useful strategy for analyzing articles, editorials, cartoons, stories and broadcasts about events such as this one.

Have students, using their answers for each question, be “reporters” writing articles about the event; or a “columnist” writing an opinion piece; or creating a video and/or PowerPoint about what they have been hearing, reading and viewing about the events in Charlottesville.

This informative article can help with talking to your students about the event, prejudice, and violence.

<https://www.teachervision.com/blog/morning-announcements/talking-to-students-about-charlottesville-and-terrorism?mpweb=1054-1489-11017#main-content>

### The Power Of Stories

Some teachers, especially those of younger students, will introduce topics of racism, civil rights and diversity through books. Here is a curated list of [50 social justice books](#) from the nonprofit Teaching for Change (a 42-page pdf). Another storybook resource, [broken down by grade level](#), is published by The National Network of State Teachers of the Year.

### The Power of Teacher Ideas

Melinda Anderson, contributing writer to The Atlantic, created the hashtag [#CharlottesvilleCurriculum](#) on Twitter to serve as an ongoing list of resources to teach responsively to current events. For more, check out this [Twitter-powered #CharlottesvilleCurriculum Google Doc](#) filled with resources for educators, which include a section on having difficult conversations in class.

### The Richness of Resources

To help make sense of the news

[Critical Media Project.](#)

[The Resources You Need To Promote Tolerance and Inclusion](#) (National Afterschool Association)

[3 Important School Leadership Lessons From Charlottesville](#) (EdWeek)

[Yes, Race and Politics Belong in the Classroom](#) (EdWeek)

Resources for Addressing Racism and Hatred in the Classroom—Webinars, Podcasts, Books,  
Other sites

<http://inservice.ascd.org/resources-for-addressing-racism-and-hatred-in-the-classroom/>

<http://video.edweek.org/detail/video/5548096759001/discussing-hate-crimes:-advice-for-teachers-from-teachers?autoStart=true&cmp=eml-enl-vid-p4>



## CHARACTER DAY

The 4th annual Character Day on [September 13th](https://www.characterday.org/) is just around the corner! There are already over **60,000 groups** signed up to participate in this global conversation about how character strengths (qualities like empathy, curiosity, humor, grit, humility, social responsibility, and many more) can be developed and strengthened throughout life, leading to more meaning, purpose, and success, regardless of circumstance. Signing up takes one minute at [CharacterDay.org](https://www.CharacterDay.org).

## TEENS and ANXIETY

A review of more than 830,000 calls, texts, messages, emails and chats received by the Boys Town National Hotline since 2012 has shown a clear trend: Teens are struggling more than ever with anxiety, depression and thoughts of suicide. (U-T, 8/13, 2017)

### Suicide

Researchers found a substantial increase in suicides among teen girls and boys in the U.S. from 1975 to 2015, with the rate among girls hitting a record high. From 2007 to 2015 alone, suicide rates doubled among teen girls and by more than 30 percent among teen boys.

<http://time.com/4887282/teen-suicide-rate-cdc/>

## News Briefs

- The Flying Leatherneck Historical Foundation (FLHF) and CERC are pleased and proud to announce its **third annual essay contest** for all public and private school students in grades 6 through 8 and grades 9 through 12 in San Diego and Imperial Valley Counties. More information in mid-September.
- **Teaching Ethics** is dedicated to promoting a free exchange of ideas among secondary school educators along with two Ethics Workbooks for students in grades 7 through 12.  
<http://www.ethicsineducation.com/>
- Why do you and your students need to know about their **character strengths**?  
<http://www.viacharacter.org/www/Character-Strengths>
- Explore **Unsung Hero** lesson plans and comprehensive project-based learning guide at the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes.  
<https://lowellmilkencenter.org/>