



# What is Terrorism?

Global Studies

Unit 5, Lesson 5

Dr. Chenicek

# What is Terrorism?

## Global Studies

Briefing

### What Is Terrorism?

Check your objectives here!



Your goals are to learn how to complete these objectives:

- **Define terrorism**
- **Analyze and evaluate conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict within and among nations**

Terrorism has been given much attention over the last few years in the United States and all over the world. But what exactly constitutes terrorism? You will be using your investigative skills to answer that question.

# Homeland Security Website

## Global Studies

Assignment

### What Is Terrorism?

Terrorism as a topic is both complex and emotional. Its complexity lies in the fact that many aspects of human nature need to be considered when studying terrorism. Psychology, politics, military action, religion, and history are only a few examples of this nature that might apply to an investigation into terrorism. Terrorism can also be an emotional topic because it focuses on violence against what are usually considered the innocent, and the question of whether that type of violence is ever justifiable.

But terrorism is not a new topic. Throughout history it has been used to oppose governments, policies, and leaders. From the terror of the French Revolution in the 18th century to to the September 11th attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States, violence has been used often. In recent times there has been terrorist activity in India, Spain, Israel, Columbia, and the United States, just to name a very few.

Listening to news media lately, more than likely you have heard the terror threat level discussed. Colors have been used to assess the level of terrorism threat that the United States is experiencing based on activities at home and abroad. Analysts measure both the likelihood of an attack as well as the severity. Read about the Advisory System at the Homeland Security [web site](#).

While these levels can be of any value to us, we must look at what terrorism means; but defining terrorism hasn't proven easy-- even to any of the world's leaders. There is an old saying that suggests that "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Essentially this means there is not a single clearly and universally accepted definition of terrorism because countries have different belief systems and all wish to support their own national interests.



© 2004 DHS

Click here  
for the  
Homeland  
Security  
web site

# Homeland Security Website

Interesting site  
– Informative  
& up-to-the  
minute.

## Homeland Security Advisory System

### Current Threat Level

December 8, 2010

- The United States government's national threat level is **Elevated**, or **Yellow**.
- For all domestic and international flights, the U.S. threat level is **High**, or **Orange**. See the Transportation Security Administration for [up-to-date information on items permitted and prohibited on airlines](#).



### Recommended Activities

- Everyone should establish an [emergency preparedness kit](#) and [emergency plan](#) for themselves and their family, and stay informed about what to do during an emergency. See more at [Citizen Guidance on the Homeland Security Advisory System \(PDF - 1 page, 132 KB\)](#)
- All Americans should continue to be vigilant, take notice of their surroundings, and report suspicious items or activities to local authorities immediately.

### About the Homeland Security Advisory System

The Homeland Security Advisory System is designed to guide our protective measures when specific information to a particular sector or geographic region is received. It combines threat information with vulnerability assessments and provides communications to public safety officials and the public.

- **Homeland Security Threat Advisories** contain actionable information about an incident involving, or a threat targeting, critical national networks or infrastructures or key assets.
- **Homeland Security Information Bulletins** communicate information of interest to the nation's critical infrastructures that do not meet the timeliness, specificity, or significance thresholds of warning messages.
- **Color-coded Threat Level System** is used to communicate with public safety officials and the public at-large through a threat-based, color-coded system so that protective measures can be implemented to reduce the likelihood or impact of an attack.



This system was established in [Homeland Security Presidential Directive 3](#).

# Definitions of Terrorism

No country wants to be thought of as harboring terrorists or using terrorism to achieve their goals, yet neither do they wish to be prohibited from using what they protect their interests. Therefore, getting the world to agree on just what does constitute an act of terrorism has proven to see a few of the definitions of terrorism that have been proposed over the years.

Click here for an interesting article

[Definitions of Terrorism Often Vary](#) by Mary H. Cooper (The CQ Researcher)

Although it is hard to pinpoint a clear definition of terrorism, most terrorist acts share common characteristics:

<b>Victims</b>	Person or people are actually harmed by the act; can be civilian or military
<b>Target</b>	Person or people not physically harmed but at whom the act was aimed; usually a government or group
<b>Intent</b>	To spread fear or influence policy decisions
<b>Means</b>	Violence or threat of violence exists
<b>Motive</b>	Subjective, hard to determine, but can be based on ideological, religious, or nationalistic beliefs



Now that you have looked at a few definitions of terrorism and some common characteristics of terrorist acts, your editor would like you to create your own comprehensive definition and see what you consider acts of terrorism. View some [Terrorism Definition and Scenarios](#).

**CLICK HERE!**  
This is where you will find your Work File



# GNN Work File



Assignment

What Is Terrorism?

**Click this Work File**  
– it is very important to help you organize this assignment



There are several parts to this assignment. **A work file is provided to help you organize your information.** Be sure you understand and complete each part before going on to the next. What you will be asked to submit for the **What Is Terrorism?** assessment will involve all three parts of this assignment.

# Your Assignment – Part One

## Part One

**Define terrorism.** Based on what you already know and what you have read in this lesson, write your own definition that is thoughtful and complete. Provide examples to help clarify what you mean.

**Fill in that Work File!!**

# Your Assignment – Part Two

## Part Two

**Read and respond to each scenario listed below.** Based on what you already know and what you have read in this lesson about the meaning of terrorism, respond to the questions that follow each scenario.

### Scenario 1

Green World is an environmental group that has been fighting against the building of a hotel in a wilderness reserve. The Hotel Group was able to get all of the legal permits and documentation needed to complete construction of the very expensive hotel, and it was almost ready to open. Five members of Green World burned the vacant hotel in an act of protest. No one was killed, but there was substantial property damage.

- Is this an example of terrorism according to your definition?
- Who, if anyone, is acting as a terrorist?
- Is there any other information you would need to know to make a better decision?

**Fill in that Work File!!**



# Your Assignment – Part Three

## Part Two

**Read and respond to each scenario listed below.** Based on what you already know and what you have read in this lesson about the meaning of terrorism, respond to the questions that follow each scenario.

### Scenario 1

Green World is an environmental group that has been fighting against the building of a hotel in a wilderness reserve. The Hotel Group was able to get all of the legal permits and documentation needed to complete construction of the very expensive hotel, and it was almost ready to open. Five members of Green World burned the vacant hotel in an act of protest. No one was killed, but there was substantial property damage.


- Is this an example of terrorism according to your definition?
- Who, if anyone, is acting as a terrorist?
- Is there any other information you would need to know to make a better decision?

**Fill in that Work File!!**

# Discussion Post

## TWO-PART ASSIGNMENT:

1. Discussion Post
2. Quiz – Read carefully and completely answer Essay Questions!!

**Global Studies**

Report


### What Is Terrorism?

Your editor wants to make sure you get all the credit possible for this assignment. Be sure you have done the following:

1. Written and posted in the Discussion your own definition of terrorism.
2. Read and answered the questions to all three scenarios.
3. Posted in the Discussion clearly written paragraphs that respond to two (2) of the scenarios presented in the lesson.
4. Responded to the posting of two (2) of your classmates. Be sure to answer the following: Do you agree with their definition of terrorism? Why or why not? Be specific; we want to encourage further discussion. Do you agree with their assessment of the two scenarios they picked? Why or why not? Please refer to the [Discussion Guidelines](#) for help getting started.


Work

Be sure you have met the learning goals and each grading requirement of this lesson, complete the **What Is Terrorism?** assessment on the following page.



[How will you be graded on this assessment?](#)

Are all necessary pages printed and placed in your notebook? Is all work saved on a floppy, zip disk, or CD?

 Unless otherwise noted,  
© 2004-2008 FLVS.

# Discussion Post

Group Name	Subject	Topics	Users
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is A-G</a>	3.06 Food For Thought Last Update: Mon Nov 22 10:49:05	66	All
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is H-O</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Tue Nov 30 11:16:00 2010 <b>186 Unread Items</b>	57	All
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is P-Z</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 13:33:26 2010 <b>141 Unread Items</b>	56	All
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is A-G</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 17:46:24 2010 <b>173 Unread Items</b>	48	All
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is H-O</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 13:33:26 2010 <b>141 Unread Items</b>	39	All
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is P-Z</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 17:46:24 2010 <b>173 Unread Items</b>	51	All

Click the discussion groups to post your definition and response.

## Click here for the Discussion Post:

1. Post your own Definition of Terrorism
2. Respond to two of your classmates' posts

<a href="#">Post here if your last name is A-G</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Tue Nov 30 11:16:00 2010 <b>186 Unread Items</b>
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is H-O</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 13:33:26 2010 <b>141 Unread Items</b>
<a href="#">Post here if your last name is P-Z</a>	5.05 What is Terrorism? Last Update: Mon Dec 6 17:46:24 2010 <b>173 Unread Items</b>

Pick the section that is appropriate and post your definition and responses to the scenarios. Find two other students and respond to their posts as well. You will need to know their names for the assessment.

# Assessment: It's a Quiz!

Worksheet: [5.05 What is Terrorism?](#)

Not submitted

0 / 2

## Multiple Choice

1. Which factor does the threat level color chart NOT represent? (5 points)

- Likelihood of an attack
- Location of an attack
- Severity of an attack

2. Which color represents a severe threat of terrorism? (5 points)

- Orange
- Red
- Green

3. Why is there no one universally accepted definition of terrorism?

- Because every country practices terrorism
- Because terrorism doesn't exist in all countries
- Because countries wish to support their own national interests

4. Which characteristic of terrorism refers to having the ability to inflict harm?

- Means
- Intent
- Motive

5. Which characteristic of terrorism refers to persons not actually harmed?

## Essay

Your teacher will grade your responses to questions 6–10 to ensure you receive credit for this assignment.

6. What is your definition of terrorism? (15 points)

7. Name the two classmates to whom you responded in the Discussion area for this assignment. (15 points)

8. Did you find that your definition of terrorism was similar to or different from to whom you responded? Please explain in detail. (15 points)

**This is where you will put the information that you posted for the Discussion Post in the lesson (Page 5)**

# Contact Information

- **Mrs. Sage**
- **Global Studies Instructor**
- **Florida Virtual School**
  
- **239-443-5331 office**  
**239-464-4181 text**
- **Flash Appointments:** <http://tiny.cc/sageappt>