

CENTER FOR COLD WAR STUDIES
University of California, Santa Barbara
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DEFENSE OF DE-FENCE OR
THE CALL FOR THE FALL OF THE WALL

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Title of lesson: **The Israeli Security Fence: A Hearing**

Duration of lesson: Two and a half periods.

Placement within the unit: 10th Grade World History class; Unit on the Middle East

Rationale:

This lesson will be used toward the end of the study on the Middle East to deal with current issues in the conflict between Arabs and Israelis. The students should have a good idea by this point of the positions of each side, and the “hearing” on whether or not the Israeli security fence torn down will encapsulate the positions and the problems in contemporary Palestine.

History standards:

10.10 Students analyze instances of nation-building in the contemporary world in at least two of the following regions or countries: the Middle East, Africa, Mexico and other parts of Latin America, and China.

1. Understand the challenges in the regions, including their geopolitical, cultural, military, and economic significance and the international relationships in which they are involved.
2. Describe the recent history of the regions, including political divisions and systems, key leaders, religious issues, natural features, resources, and population patterns.
3. Discuss the important trends in the regions today and whether they appear to serve the cause of individual freedom and democracy.

Student outcomes/ Learning objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students should:

- understand the pros and cons of the Israeli security fence, wall, or barrier.
- demonstrate a knowledge of the situation that led to the erection of the barrier.
- practice oral, written, listening, cooperative learning, and problem solving skills;

- demonstrate a knowledge of the problems that exist in that divide Israelis and Palestinians in contemporary Palestine/Israel.

Materials: Handouts will enable the student to be a witness or a judge in a hearing on the legality of erecting the Israeli security fence. If you have some sort of “judge-like” gowns, let the judges use them.

Procedures:

DAY ONE: Part of the period the day before the “hearing” lesson, explain what will be happening regarding the roles students will be playing the next day. Each student will receive a page with a general explanation of the issue at the top and an individualized segment below explaining their role.

Explain that the people playing the various roles must prepare their performance at home that evening. They must have a name, a place of residence in the area, and an occupation. They must have the information to present in a short and clear manner. **It may not be read.** They may refer to a note sheet only for statistics, but **NO READING!**

1. Assign three “JUDGES” and give them their information sheets (See Handout # 1). The tribunal’s job is to ask questions of each witness, evaluate the information that is presented, and determine at the end of the hearing, in written statements, whether the Israelis can need to dismantle their security fence. As their homework assignment, the judges will turn in their ruling explaining their decision.
2. Assign 8 witnesses who feel the security wall is necessary and proper. Give each of them a different information sheet (See Handouts #2, #4, #6, #8, #10, #12, #14, #16.)
3. Assign 8 witnesses who feel the security wall is a violation of international law (See Handouts #3, #5, #7, #9, #11, #13, #15, #17.)
4. Assign the rest of the class to be reporters. They will not receive a handout. Explain to them that they will be talking notes on what happens at the hearing. Their homework assignment is to write a newspaper article complete with a headline to be turned in for a grade the day after the hearing.

DAY TWO: On the day of the hearing arrange the class in the following way:

Judge 1
Judge 2
Judge 3

Defense of De-Fence Witnesses	Stand	Witness	Witnesses for Fall of Wall
2 10			3 11
4 12			5 13
6 14			7 15
8 16			9 17

THE PRESS

HANDOUT #1: JUDGES

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

Three Judges:

You are one of three judges. Your role will be as an impartial (not favoring either side) judge for the hearing. You do not come from the Middle East but you are not necessarily an American. Your job is to provide what you believe to be a fair decision based on testimony by a series of witnesses. You will have witnesses appear before you representing different opinions on the issue of the security fence. You and your fellow judges must ask the following questions, and any others that will clarify the witness's testimony for you.

1. Please tell us your name, where you come from, and your occupation.
2. Please tell us what your feelings are about the security fence.
3. Why do you feel this way?
4. Do you think there is a need for the security wall or should it be torn down?

You should take notes while each witness testifies. For homework, you are to write up your decision and give your reasons for this decision. The day after the hearing you will give your decision to the class and contribute to the de-briefing session.

WITNESS #2 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- Terrorism has been defined throughout the international community as a crime against humanity. As such, the State of Israel not only has the right but also the obligation to do everything in its power to lessen the impact and scope of terrorism on the citizens of Israel.
- The Security Fence is an operational concept conceived by the Israeli Defense Establishment in order to reduce the number of terrorist attacks whether in the form of explosive-rigged vehicles or in the form of suicide bombers who enter into Israel with the intention of murdering innocent babies, children, women and men. Sadly, this abhorrent phenomenon has become common practice since September 2000.
- Every effort was made to exclude Palestinian villages from the area within the fence and no territories were being annexed.
- The land used in building the security fence is seized for military purposes, not confiscated, and it remains the property of the owner. Legal procedures are already in place to allow every owner to file an objection to the seizure of their land. In addition, Israel has budgeted \$22 million to compensate Palestinians for the use of their land. As of September, Palestinians had filed \$2.2 million in compensation claims.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #3 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

Facts about the Security Wall:

- The western wall will effectively incorporate at least 10% of Palestinian territory into Israel. The latest projections estimate it as much as 45-55%

- The first section of the wall incorporated 10 illegal Israeli settlements into Israel. When finished, approximately 91% of all West Bank settlements and 98% of its settlers will be on the Israeli side and effectively annexed.
- 12,000 Palestinians will be forced to reside between the wall and Israel's internationally recognized border, pre-1967, which shall be a closed military zone.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #4 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- After scores of suicide bombings and daily terrorist attacks against its civilians that have killed more than 850 people and wounded thousands more since September 2000, Israel's unity government decided to construct a security fence near the northern part of the pre-1967 "Green Line" between Israel and the West Bank to prevent Palestinian terrorists from infiltrating into Israeli population centers. The project has had the overwhelming support of the Israeli public, which sees the barrier as vital to their security.
- There is actually nothing new about the construction of a security fence. Many other nations have fences to protect their borders (the United States is building one now to keep out illegal Mexican immigrants). Israel has similar barriers along its borders with Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan. In fact, a fence already surrounds the Gaza Strip and not a single suicide bomber has managed to get across the Gaza barrier into Israel. Ironically, after condemning Israel's barrier, the UN announced plans to build its own fence to improve security around its New York headquarters.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #5 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June

2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- All Palestinian property close to the wall's path is being destroyed or confiscated. In one village, the Israeli government has ordered the demolition of 8 houses, 3 factories and 128 businesses. In another village Israeli bulldozers have demolished 16 homes and more than 100 shops in order to make way for the wall.
- The land incorporated into Israel by the wall is the richest agricultural land in the West Bank. It includes the aquifer system which provides 51% of the West Bank's water resources.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #6 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The Palestinians committed themselves in the Oslo accords and in the road map to dismantle terrorist networks and get rid of illegal weapons. After more than 10 years of negotiations, and a mounting number of Israeli civilian casualties, however, it became clear to the Israeli people that the Palestinian Authority (PA) made a strategic choice to

use terror to achieve its aims and that something had to be done to protect the civilian population.

- “It obliges us to establish a barrier wall which is the only thing that can minimize the infiltration of these male and female suicide bombers,” said Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who has emphasized that “the fence is not political, [and] is not a border.”
- Israel is doing its best to minimize the negative impact on Palestinians in the area of construction and is providing agricultural passageways to allow farmers to continue to cultivate their lands, and crossing points to allow the movement of people and the transfer of goods. Moreover, property owners are offered compensation for the use of their land and for any damage to their trees. Contractors are responsible for carefully uprooting and replanting the trees. So far, more than 60,000 olive trees have been relocated in accordance with this procedure.
- Despite Israel's best efforts, the fence has caused some injury to residents near the fence. Israel's Supreme Court took up the grievances of Palestinians and ruled that the construction of the security fence is consistent with international law and was based on Israel's security requirements rather than political considerations. It also required the government to move the fence in the area near Jerusalem to make things easier for the Palestinians.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #7 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- It is a myth that the Palestinians were informed about the wall and granted the opportunity to contest the Israeli government's decision. The Palestinians were informed about the construction of the wall. However, all protests sent by lawyers to the Israeli Supreme Court were flatly rejected in the name of security.
- The Israeli government says it built the wall to protect its citizens by preventing Palestinians crossing into Israeli areas. A security wall could have been erected on the international border or inside Israel and still achieved the same objectives. The wall is

being constructed on average 6 Km to the east of the international border, deep into Palestinian territory. Its deviation means it will be twice as long as the border.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #8 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- Before the construction of the fence, a terrorist need only walk across an invisible line to cross from the West Bank into Israel. No barriers of any kind existed before, so it is easy to see how a barrier, no matter how imperfect, won't at least make the terrorists' job more difficult.
- Approximately 75 percent of the suicide bombers who attacked targets inside Israel came from across the border where the first phase of the fence was built.
- During the 34 months from the beginning of the violence in September 2000 until the construction of the first continuous segment of the security fence at the end of July 2003, Samaria-based terrorists carried out 73 attacks in which 293 Israelis were killed and 1950 wounded. In the 11 months between the erection of the first segment at the beginning of August 2003 and the end of June 2004, only three attacks were successful, and all three occurred in the first half of 2003.
- Since construction of the fence, the number of attacks has declined by more than 90%. The number of Israelis murdered and wounded has decreased by more than 70% and 85%, respectively, after erection of the fence.
- The success of the anti-terrorist fence in Samaria means that the launching point for terrorists has been moved to Judea, where there is not yet a continuous fence.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #9 HANDOUT

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You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The wall is supposed to stop suicide bombers and prevent terrorist attacks from the West Bank. But I feel that the wall will have no tangible security benefits to Israel. The fence erected around Gaza after the first intifada did not stop attacks on Israeli targets. The wall will increase anger and resentment that fuels the violence.
- According to the Israeli government the consequences of the wall will overall be beneficial. Israel has violated human rights and international law to build the security wall. It will imprison Palestinians into ghettos restricting their movement into Israeli areas. It will only further exacerbate the enormous suffering of the Palestinians.
- The wall will have a devastating impact on the lives of around 210,000 Palestinians living in 67 towns or villages. It will lead to widespread unemployment, poverty and hunger and deny the Palestinians access to education, health services and places of religious worship.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS # 10 HANDOUT

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is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who **FAVORS** the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The Green Line (the border set up by the 1949 peace agreement) is crossed by numerous dirt roads and it is impossible to patrol it. Many Palestinians take advantage of these roads to come to work illegally in Israel or to get between parts of the Palestinian administered territories to avoid checkpoints.
- Some also cross to carry out terror operations and theft. Since 1994, Palestinians, sometimes in cooperation with Israeli middlemen, have stolen thousands of automobiles as well as farm machinery and animals.
- Israelis living along the Green Line, both Jews and Arabs, favor the fence to prevent infiltration by suicide bombers and by thieves and vandals. In fact, the fence has caused a revolution in the daily life of some Israeli Arab towns because it has brought quiet, which has allowed a significant upsurge in economic activity.
- The Palestinians in the territories will also benefit from the fence because it will reduce the need for Israeli military operations in the territories, and the deployment of troops in Palestinian towns. Onerous security measures, such as curfews and checkpoints, will either be unnecessary or dramatically scaled back.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #11 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who **OPPOSES** the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The fence as another Berlin Wall that turns Palestinian areas into giant prison camps. Proof that the fence is just an Israeli land grab is clear in its proposed location, which is

not exactly along the Green Line. Israel is swinging the fence around some West Bank settlements and other areas the Israeli army wants to patrol. Israel says both sides will have to yield some territory for the barrier. But Palestinians look at the proposed location and see too many areas where they are ceding large tracts of land. Some Palestinian farmers say the fence will block them from moving between the villages where they live and the fields they work. Palestinians say the wall is being built in such a way as to divide Palestinian population centers from their adjacent agricultural and water resources.

- The 12,000 Palestinians imprisoned between the Wall and the Green Line will not be granted residential status or citizenship. They will have no right to travel into or get services from Israel, while Israel simultaneously deprives them of their livelihoods in the West Bank. Palestinians in this predicament may be forced to emigrate.
- Palestinians will not be compensated for the land confiscated and property damaged in order to build the wall.
- People have been deprived of their land and cut off from the West Bank and Israel. Unemployment is at 80%; 33% of its businesses have closed and about 8000 people have left.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #12 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- Although critics have sought to portray the security fence as a kind of "Berlin Wall," it is nothing of the sort.
- First, unlike the Berlin Wall, the fence does not separate one people, Germans from Germans, and deny freedom to those on one side. Israel's security fence separates two peoples, Israelis and Palestinians, and offers freedom and security for both.

- Second, while Israelis are fully prepared to live with Palestinians, and 20 percent of the Israeli population is already Arab, it is the Palestinians who say they do not want to live with any Jews and call for the West Bank to be *free of Jews*.
- Third, the fence is not being constructed to prevent the citizens of one state from escaping; it is designed solely to keep terrorists out of Israel. Finally, only a tiny fraction of the barrier (less than 3% or about 15 miles) is actually a 30 foot high concrete wall, and that is being built in three areas where it will prevent Palestinian snipers from around the terrorist hotbeds of Kalkilya and Tul Karm from shooting at cars as they have done for the last three years along the Trans-Israel Highway, one of the country's main roads. The wall also takes up less space than the other barriers, only about seven feet, so it did not have a great impact on the area where it was built.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #13 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The wall now means that the usual 6 mile journey between the towns of Bidya and Salfit will become 50 miles.
- Qaffin in the northern West Bank, will be deprived of 60% of their agricultural land. Several villages will lose their only source of water. One town now only receives water for two hours every three days.
- The wall will sever remaining cross-border relations between Israelis and Palestinians and also relations between Palestinian communities.
- The Palestinians will be living in the largest prison in the world.

- Palestinians fear the barrier will become the real border, and that some of their land will become part of Israel. The barrier has sliced off about 17 per cent of the West Bank's area.
- Israel has set up gates that are supposed to allow people and vehicles to cross through the barrier. But the establishment of the barrier has still made it more difficult for Palestinians to work in Israel. As well, some people have been cut off from their families on the other side.
- Some Palestinian farmers have also been separated from their lands. Special agricultural gates have been set up that are supposed to allow those farmers and their workers access to that land.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #14 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who **FAVORS** the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- Most of the barrier will be a chain-link type fence similar to those used all over the United States combined with underground and long-range sensors, unmanned aerial vehicles, trenches, landmines and guard paths.
- Manned checkpoints will make up the only way to travel back and forth through the fence. The barrier is altogether about 160 feet wide in most places.
- The land used in building the security fence is seized for military purposes, not taken away, and it remains the property of the owner. Legal procedures are already in place to allow every owner to file an objection to the seizure of their land. Moreover, property owners are offered compensation for the use of their land and for any damage to their trees.

- The security barrier at Gaza is a good example of how the security fence is successful. Barbed wire fences have been strung along the line between the Gaza Strip and Israel, effectively cutting off infiltration by militants.
- Israel contends the barrier is for security only and not meant to define a border for a future Palestinian state, which is to be negotiated under the final stage of the "road map." The fence is a means of addressing Israel's security needs if there is not cooperation from the Palestinian leadership itself.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

WITNESS #15 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who OPPOSES the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The Israeli wall is illegal. It is not being built on the internationally recognized border but exclusively on land confiscated from the Palestinians. It violates the Geneva Convention [Israel is a signatory], which forbid the destruction of property and confinement of persons by an occupier in occupied territories.
- Building a wall illegally and by force will not bring security to Israel. It will only worsen the conflict and jeopardize the possibility of a future peace process and a viable Palestinian state.
- Governments across the world have condemned the wall. Prime Minister of England, Tony Blair, said that the wall “would mean that a peace settlement is less likely and less possible”.
- U.S. President George W Bush also called it ‘a problem’ and his National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, also raised objections to the Wall during her recent visit to Israel.
- On July 20, 2004, the General Assembly passed a resolution demanding that Israel tear down the wall. The vote was 150-6 in support of the resolution. The U.S., Australia and Israel voted against it. Canada abstained.

- The resolution followed a ruling on July 9, 2004, by the International Court of Justice, saying the barrier should be torn down because it violates international laws and infringes on the rights of Palestinians. It also recommended compensation to Palestinians whose homes and businesses were destroyed in its construction.
- Peace can only flourish in a climate of confidence and hope. We must built bridges, not walls.

Be able to explain how unjust you think all of this is.

WITNESS #16 HANDOUT

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

You are a witness who FAVORS the building of the security wall. Make-up a name, identify a place you live in the region (for example: Jerusalem), and give yourself an occupation.

Here is some information to cover in an interesting way.

- The most controversial aspects of the project are decisions regarding the inclusion of Jewish settlements. Israel wants to include as many Jews within the fence, and as few Palestinians as possible.
- To include some of the larger settlements, however, it would be necessary to build the fence with bulges inside the West Bank. The Bush Administration understands Israel's security arguments regarding the need for the fence, but does not want it to prejudge negotiations or to threaten the possibility of creating a contiguous Palestinian state and therefore has pressured Israel to restrict construction to the area along the pre-1967 border, or as close as possible to it.
- The so-called "Green Line," however, was not an internationally recognized border, it was an armistice line between Israel and Jordan pending the negotiation of a final border. Building the fence along that line would have been a political statement and would not accomplish the principal goal of the barrier, namely, the prevention of terror.

Explain that you think the fence should remain.

PRESS HANDOUT #17:

Tomorrow you will be participating in a hearing to discuss whether or not the Israeli government should dismantle/tear down the security fence erected between Israelis and Palestinians. In June 2002, the Israeli government began to construct a fence/wall/barrier projected to encircle the entire West Bank and seal off it off from Israel. Construction of the first section of the wall was finished in July 2003. The western part of the wall stretches for about 225 miles from the northern regions of the West Bank to its most southern regions. The estimated length of the entire barrier is about 434 miles. It consists of reinforced cement, barbed wire, trenches, electronic motion sensors, guard towers and security roads. It cost about \$2 million per mile and is twice as long and, in some places, three times as high as the Berlin Wall. As with the Great Wall of China, Israel's fence can be seen from space.

- You are a member of the press. Your job is to take notes as the witnesses testify and report what happened. Tonight, for homework, you will write a newspaper article reporting what went on. This article is due tomorrow. It is an article about the facts and what happened and should not contain your opinion.
- You will be graded on how well you cover the hearing.
- Write a good headline for your article.

DAY THREE: DE-BRIEFING

- The day after the hearing is completed do a de-briefing. Collect the articles that the press prepared and read a selected few to the class.
- Have the three judges render their decision and read their comments on why they ruled the way they did. Collect their papers.
- Discuss with the class what happened during the hearing. Have them give the arguments used by the sides and write them on the board/overhead.
- Wrap up the lesson by asking them what they learned, then review the issue of the security wall and what it shows about the problems in the Middle East.