

Fair Lawn HS March 31st 2017

As a Social Studies teacher at Fair Lawn High School, I am always looking for new ways to make my class content material even more relevant (and interesting) for my students.

In my Holocaust and Genocide class, we have concluded the section on the Armenian Genocide. When my supervisor shared Greg Serian's kind offer to address our students, I jumped at the opportunity. As I write this, I am reviewing the several moments during Greg's presentation when I realized what a wonderful experience this was for my students.

Toward the end of the assembly, Greg asked for questions and, after temporary reluctance, the questions began flowing. The quality of the questions made it abundantly clear that Greg had gotten through to the audience. It also reinforced the idea that I would like to have him return each year.

What struck me most during Greg's presentation was the way that he made the material accessible to students. Because of the demands of a full curriculum, it is not always possible for a U.S. History II teacher to devote enough time to the Armenian Genocide. Greg did a wonderful job of providing enough background information to allow students to appreciate the gravity of what he was discussing.

The fact that Greg shared details of his grandmother's experiences during the Armenian Genocide added to the emotional impact his presentation had. Greg also made connections between the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust, a topic with which students are much more familiar.

Since this morning's assembly, I have heard nothing but positive feedback about Greg Serian and his powerful presentation.

Henry Von Kooy
Fair Lawn High School
Social Studies

















