

Following what you learned in class on 11/9, what did you find most impactful? Free-write about your experience and compare and contrast hate crimes and terrorist activities. How are they similar? How are they different? Can terrorism be both a hate crime and an act of terror? What about hate crimes - can they be both? 400-500 words.

On 11/9, what I found most impactful was how frequent hate crimes with LGBTQ folks occurred. It was very illuminating to see that instances happen all across the globe. Analyzing the story with the student, Tyler Clementi who committed suicide due to his roommate placing a web cam in their room and recording him in an intimate situation with another student. Tyler's roommate Dharun Ravi, having done this on 2 different instances made Tyler extremely uncomfortable, even to the point that he felt so violated that he went ahead and committed suicide. That situation, although not a terrorist attack, was a hate crime. The amount of hate crimes that happen towards LGBTQ folks is also on the rise, even though one might think that these crimes are going down especially since there is legislation in place to protect queer folks. Another thing I found impactful during class on 11/9 was the fact that there is a lot more legislation for gay people but very limited legislation on hate crimes that happen to transgender individuals. Hate crimes are usually directed at a specific demographic based on attributes such as race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, while terrorism targets a broader population or specific political or social entities. Hate crimes and terrorist activities also vary in their scope because terrorist activities usually happen on a much larger scale and use organized and strategic attacks to send their message. Hate crimes on the other hand can appear in a multitude of ways including vandalism, assault, and harassment. Another difference between hate crimes and terrorism lies in their motivations, which is that hate crimes are primarily motivated by bias or animosity towards a particular group, whereas terrorism often has broader political, ideological, or religious motivations. Some similarities between hate crimes and terrorism is that they both intend to cause harm and fear within people. Both hate crimes and terrorism can have lasting impacts on our society moving forward. Due to the nature of these events, they can scar the nation and a whole leaving them on edge and a bit paranoid. I do believe that there can be an overlap at times where a situation that is a hate crime can also be a terrorism event, and vice versa. An example could very well be a situation where an attack may target a specific religious group (a hate crime) with the intention of instigating widespread fear or influencing political change (terrorism).