Name_____
Date_____

Humiliation and Violence

Humiliation, combined with other circumstances, can lead to a violent backlash. One example of this is the rash of suicide bombers from the West Bank. Of course, their choices and actions are complex. We cannot blame the murder they commit as human missiles entirely on their feelings of humiliation. However, most scholars believe humiliation plays an important role in their desperate and horrifying choices.

Before we read the interview from 2002, let's get a bit of background about the issue. Remember, this is just a brief overview of a complex situation.

•After World War II, in 1948, the state of Israel was formed for the Jews. The United Nations acknowledged that there needed to be a Jewish nation, a safe-haven after the Nazis had killed six million Jews in concentration camps.

• When the country was created, Israel was immediately attacked by its Arab neighbors. 700,000 Palestinians, people who already lived on the land that had just become Israel, fled, and most of them because refugees outside of Israel's borders.

• The Six Day War: 1967 Israel got wind of planned attacks from Arab neighbors. Israel attacked pre-emptively and doubled its territory. It took over the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. Many Palestinian refugee camps were on these newly acquired territories.

• Since then, the West Bank (among other territories) has been disputed ground. The PA (Palestinian Authority) and Israel have attempted many peace talks, but have also used extensive force on both sides.

Please list the events the speakers found "humiliating."	What emotions resulted?
How might humiliation play a role in the suicide attacks?	

Read the next transcript concerning school violence.

Please list the events that the students Interviewed found humiliating	What emotional reactions do you think they might have had?
How might humiliation play a part in school violence?	
How often do you see people being humiliated at school? What forms does it usually take?	