

# “My So-Called Enemy” Assignment

**Background and Context:** Conflict between Israeli Jews and Palestinians dates back to even before 1948, when the state of Israel was established to give Jews a homeland following the horrors of the Holocaust. The decades since have been marked by numerous outbreaks of violence interspersed with attempts to broker peace agreements. The documentary film *My So Called Enemy*, by Emmy-award winning director Lisa Gossels, follows a group of teenagers from the two sides of the conflict for seven years. These teens were first brought together in the United States by a leadership group called Building Bridges for Peace in an attempt to sow peace one friendship at a time.

## My So-Called Enemy

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kKOLI4t2XE>

**1st VIEWING:** consider the choices the director makes about arranging shots and including media features such as music, and on-screen text.

Explain what the trailer reveals about the Rhetorical Situation of this film

<b>SPEAKER</b>	
<b>OCCASSION</b>	
<b>AUDIENCE</b>	
<b>PURPOSE</b>	
<b>SUBJECT</b>	

Please write down at least 3 questions that come to your mind in the first viewing below:

**YOUR QUESTIONS:**

### **Analyze Order: Structure and Juxtaposition (RI 3)**

Both writers and film directors craft their work to increase the impact of their ideas and messages. They make choices such as these about how to structure or arrange the interviews, facts, and other diverse sources of material:

- Order of events or ideas, including how to set the scene and where to place the most important points
- How ideas are introduced and developed, moving from basic information to deeper or more significant points about the ideas
- How to show connections among events and ideas and add meaning through **juxtaposition**, placing key elements close to each other in the piece

1-29 Seconds: Identify elements that set the time and place

### **Determine Purpose and Point of View (RI 6)**

Even when documenting a factual subject, writers and filmmakers have a point of view or purpose. Directors choose events, music, voiceovers, and on-screen text to advance a particular point of view. Note what you feel while reading or viewing a factual work, and identify how that effect was achieved. Understanding the choices a writer or director makes can help you identify his or her purpose. Specifically look for use of juxtaposition.

first 1:05 minutes: Identify the director's purpose

### **Analyzing the Media (RI 1, RI 3, RI 6, SL 4)**

Support your responses with evidence from the selection.

1. **Interpret** Identify the ways the conflict and people are introduced and developed in the trailer. Which shots or scenes most help you understand the situation the girl's face? Why?

Scene	Why?

2. **Evaluate** List examples of media techniques used in the trailer, including news reports, music, and on-screen text. Which techniques or example do you find most effective in achieving the director's purpose? Why?

Technique	Why?

3. **Analyze** Describe the shots that immediately follow Ina's explaining of her conflicted feelings about Jews. What is the effect of these shots, and how does this **juxtaposition** serve the director's purpose?

### **PERFORMANCE TASK**

**Writing Activity: Argument** Do you think that face-to-face interactions can help resolve conflicts? Express your view in a short paragraph.

- Review the trailer, noting evidence that supports your ideas. Add ideas from your experiences to your notes.
- Write a one-page argument expressing and supporting your ideas. Then, deliver the argument as a paragraph.