

Defining Religion

Objective:

- 1) Introduce students to various definitions of religion
- 2) Familiarize students with a social science view of religion

Activity:

View a selection of videos on The ARDA's [YouTube channel](#) and discuss essential elements of what religion "is"

Assessment:

Direct students to write a response piece comparing and contrasting how scholars define "religion," the strengths and weaknesses of the various approaches, and which definition(s) they believe to be most useful.

Suggested readings:

Prothero, Stephen. 2007. *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn't*. HarperCollins. Introduction, Ch. 1-2.

