

# World Religions in Greater Indianapolis Teaching Module

**Teacher Name:** Rachel M. Barrett Knight

**Discipline:** Composition

**Date:** October 25, 2016

**World Religion:** Hinduism

**Teaching Module Title:** Hinduism Historical Module

## Teaching Module Goals:

1. Discover current historical information related to Hinduism in the United States
2. Evaluate the rhetorical context of two different writers
3. Reflect on the purpose, bias, and context of writing and its effect on the reader

## Assigned Readings and/or Websites:

1. Hajela, D. (2013, January 14). Hindus now have a fellow believer in congress. Newsday. Retrieved from <http://sks.sirs.com>
2. Basu, T. (2015, March 5). Hindus are Thriving in America, but There's Only One in Congress. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved from <http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2015/03/hindus-in-american-politics/386941/>

## Lesson Plan, Study Questions and/or Discussions Prompts for Students:

1. The students will read the Hajela (2013) and Basu (2015) articles prior to coming to class.
2. The instructor will put students into small groups and each small group will be given questions asking the group to evaluate the rhetorical context of the one of the pieces of writing.
  - a. What is the writer's purpose for writing the article?
  - b. What language choices did the author use to achieve this purpose?
  - c. How does the title of the article impact the way the information is perceived?
  - d. What information does the author provide to support the purpose for writing?
  - e. Is the writer effective at their purpose?
  - f. What additional information (if any) would help the author's goal?
3. Students are given time to digest and evaluate the questions provided in small groups and are encouraged to use examples from the text to support their responses.
4. The teacher leads a discussion by having the small groups share their responses to the above questions and guides the conversation to more deeply understand the context, bias, and purpose of each piece.

## Written Assignments and/or other Assessment Instruments:

1. Students will write a reflective journal discussing which of the articles they felt was more effective by providing their own rationale. Students should be encouraged to consider whether informative tactics or persuasive tactics were more effective.
2. An alternative assignment: students could be encouraged to seek out an additional article related to the topic of Hinduism or religion and government and evaluate the article on the same basis that was completed in class by providing the source and answering the questions.