QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

A Resource for “Extremists in Opposition: A Dangerous Symbiosis”

1. The word “extreme” and references to “extremism” are part of our daily conversations. The Merriam-Webster dictionary gives us the following definitions of “extreme”:

   - 1a: existing in a very high degree: extreme poverty
   - 1b: going to great or exaggerated lengths: Radical: went on an extreme diet
   - 1c: exceeding the ordinary, usual, or expected: extreme weather conditions
   - 2: archaic: last
   - 3: situated at the farthest possible point from a center. the country’s extreme north
   - 4a: most advanced or thorough going: the extreme political left
   - 4b: maximum
   - 5a: of, relating to, or being an outdoor activity or a form of a sport (such as skiing) that involves an unusually high degree of physical risk: extreme mountain biking down steep slopes

   a. How do you use the word “extreme”? Is it “good” or “bad”?

   b. In one sentence, write a definition for the term “extremist”. Look it up and see if the definition is the same as the way you defined the word.

2. Look up the dictionary definition of symbiosis.

   a. Explain how this definition applies to the relationship that Arno describes between extremists on the left and right.

   b. Do you agree that symbiotic is the correct way to describe this relationship? Why or why not? If not, what word would you use?

   c. Can you think of other civil society groups/political entities/governments today with a similar dynamic, domestic or international? If so, which?
3. Find two articles/op-eds that discuss the same set of circumstances from opposing sides.
   a. What does the article say that validates one side's narrative?
   b. How might the article provoke the other side?
   c. How could the material in the article be presented differently in each article so that it did not fuel conflict? Is that possible?