**Directions:**  Read and annotate the following articles. Respond to the questions for each article as you complete it. Use the annotations and questions to guide your group discussion.

**Standards:** RI 1 (evidence), RI 2 (main idea), RI 6 (point of view, purpose), RI 8 (evaluate argument)

**“Boko Haram's 'deadliest massacre': 2,000 feared dead in Nigeria” Questions**

1. What is your initial response to the article?
2. How much did you know about the event before reading this article?
3. What are the five most important things a person should know about this event based on the article?

**“2015 Paris Terror Attacks Fast Facts”**

1. What is your initial response to the article?
2. How much did you know about the event before reading this article?
3. What are the five most important things a person should know about this event based on the article?

## “Why *Charlie Hebdo* Gets More Attention Than Boko Haram”

1. What is your initial response to the article?
2. What is the central claim or main idea of the article?
3. Does your own experience in learning of these events align with Alter’s claims in the third article? EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER.
4. Does the author validate her claim with appropriate support and evidence? EXPLAIN.

From: Rono, Moses. “Boko Haram: Is terror designation a badge of honor?” *BBC*. 15 Nov. 2013. Web.

**Boko Haram's 'deadliest massacre': 2,000 feared dead in Nigeria**

Saturday 10 January 2015 05.42 EST Last modified on Monday 12 January 2015 08.53 EST

Amnesty International calls the killings ‘a disturbing and bloody escalation’ and a local defence group says its fighters have given up trying to count the bodies

Fighting continued Friday around the town on Baga, near Nigeria’s border with Chad.

Hundreds of bodies – too many to count – remain strewn in the bush in Nigeria from an Islamic extremist attack that Amnesty International described as the “deadliest massacre” in the history of Boko Haram.

Fighting continued on Friday around Baga, a town on the border with Chad where insurgents seized a key military base on 3 January and attacked again on Wednesday.

“Security forces have responded rapidly, and have deployed significant military assets and conducted air strikes against militant targets,” said a government spokesman.

District head Baba Abba Hassan said most victims are children, women and elderly people who could not run fast enough when insurgents drove into Baga, firing rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles on town residents.

“The human carnage perpetrated by Boko Haram terrorists in Baga was enormous,” Muhammad Abba Gava, a spokesman for poorly armed civilians in a defence group that fights Boko Haram, told the Associated Press.

He said the civilian fighters gave up on trying to count all the bodies. “No one could attend to the corpses and even the seriously injured ones who may have died by now,” Gava said.

An Amnesty International statement said there are reports the town was razed and as many as 2,000 people killed.

If true, “this marks a disturbing and bloody escalation of Boko Haram’s ongoing onslaught,” said Daniel Eyre, Nigeria researcher for Amnesty International.

The previous bloodiest day in the uprising involved soldiers gunning down unarmed detainees freed in a 14 March 2014 attack on Giwa military barracks in Maiduguri city. Amnesty said then that satellite imagery indicated more than 600 people were killed that day.

The attacks come five weeks away from presidential elections which are likely to trigger even more bloodshed. Already under a state of emergency, the three north-eastern states worst hit by Boko Haram asked the central government for more troops earlier this week. The government has said voting will take place across Borno state although the worsening insecurity means few international observers are likely to get clearance to oversee voting in an area that is traditionally opposition-supporting.

Around 1.5 million people have been displaced by the violence, many of whom will not be able to vote in the polls under Nigeria’s current electoral laws.

Boko Haram also appears to be regionalising the conflict, after threatening neighbouring Cameroon in a video earlier this week.

The government has made no official comment on the alleged massacres. President Goodluck Jonathan skimmed security issues when he relaunched his re-election bid in front of thousands of cheering supporters in the economic capital, Lagos, on Thursday.

The five-year insurgency killed more than 10,000 people last year alone, according to the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations. More than a million people are displaced inside Nigeria and hundreds of thousands have fled across its borders into Chad and Cameroon.

Emergency workers said this week they are having a hard time coping with scores of children separated from their parents in the chaos of Boko Haram’s increasingly frequent and deadly attacks.

Just seven children have been reunited with parents in Yola, capital of Adamawa state, where about 140 others have no idea if their families are alive or dead, said Sa’ad Bello, the coordinator of five refugee camps in Yola.

He said he was optimistic that more reunions will come as residents return to towns that the military has retaken from extremists in recent weeks.

Suleiman Dauda, 12, said he ran into the bushes with neighbours when extremists attacked his village, Askira Uba, near Yola last year.

“I saw them kill my father, they slaughtered him like a ram. And up until now I don’t know where my mother is,” he told the Associated Press at Daware refugee camp in Yola.

**2015 Paris Terror Attacks Fast Facts**

Updated 5:24 PM ET, Wed January 21, 2015

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*(CNN)*Here is some background information about the January 2015 terror attacks in Paris. From January 7 to January 9, 16 people were killed in attacks on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher grocery store. A police officer was also killed during a traffic stop. Three suspects in the attacks were killed by police in separate standoffs.

**Facts:**
The Charlie Hebdo magazine began publishing in 1970 with the goal of satirizing religion, politics, and other topics. Most employees came from the publication Hara-Kiri, which was banned after it mocked the death of former President Charles de Gaulle.

The Charlie in the title references Charlie Brown from the Peanuts cartoon. Hebdo is short for hebdomadaire, meaning weekly, in French.

The magazine ceased publication in the 1980s due to lack of funds. It resumed publishing in 1992.

In 2006, Charlie Hebdo reprinted controversial cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed that originally appearing in the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. French President Jacques Chirac criticized the decision and called it "overt provocation."

In 2011, the magazine's offices were destroyed by a gasoline bomb after it published a caricature of the Prophet Mohammed.

**The Suspects:**
**Cherif Kouachi:**
-- Born in France, of Algerian descent.
-- During his standoff with police, Cherif Kouachi told CNN affiliate BFMTV that he'd trained in Yemen with al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).
- He also told BFMTV that during that time he met with [Anwar al-Awlaki](http://www.cnn.com/2013/08/23/world/meast/anwar-al-awlaki-fast-facts/index.html), the American-born Muslim who was the face of AQAP until he was killed in 2011 in a U.S. drone strike.

**Said Kouachi:**
-- Born in France, of Algerian descent.
-- [Starting in 2009, Kouachi traveled to Yemen frequently, spending months at a time there.](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/08/europe/paris-charlie-hebdo-shooting-suspects/index.html)
-- U.S officials said that in 2011 Kouachi received weapons training and worked with AQAP.

**Amedy Coulibaly:**
-- Born in France, of Senegalese descent.
-- [Arrested in 2010 for attempting to free an Algerian serving time for a 1995 subway bombing and spent some time in prison. Cherif Kouachi was under investigation for the same plot, but there was not enough evidence to indict him.](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/10/world/france-woman-suspect/)
- Before he was killed by police, Amedy Coulibaly purportedly told CNN affiliate BFMTV by phone that he belonged to ISIS, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.

**Hayat Boumeddiene:**
-- Born in France, of Algerian descent.
-- Girlfriend of Amedy Coulibaly.
-- Initially it was believed she took part in the shooting of a police woman in Montrouge and the subsequent kosher grocery store attack.
-- However, a Turkish Prime Ministry source has told CNN that Boumeddiene entered Turkey on January 2, arriving at the Istanbul airport on a flight from Madrid with a man. She had a return ticket to Madrid for January 9, but she failed to take her return flight from Istanbul that day.
-- Also, a French source close to the nation's security services said it's believed that Boumeddiene is no longer in France and she is thought to have left for Turkey, "of course to reach Syria."
-- [Paris prosecutor Francois Molins has indicated Boumedienne and Cherif Kouachi's wife also were well acquainted, saying they exchanged 500 phone calls in 2014.](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/10/world/france-woman-suspect/index.html)

**Timeline of the attacks:**
**January 7, 2015 -**
**--** [At approximately 11:30 a.m., gunmen force their way into the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris.](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/08/europe/charlie-hebdo-attack-timeline/index.html) The attackers allegedly say they are avenging the Prophet Mohammed and shout "Allahu akbar," which translates to "God is great," according to Paris Prosecutor Francois Molins.

-- Eight employees, a guest at the magazine, a maintenance worker and a police officer are killed.

-- After fleeing the building, the gunmen encounter a police officer on the street and shoot him at point-blank range.

-- Later in the day, the phrase "Je Suis Charlie" ("I am Charlie"), begins trending on social media. Thousands of Parisians take to the streets to hold a vigil for the victims.

-- Hamyd Mourad, 18, turns himself into police after he is identified as the third suspect in the attacks. Police later clear Mourad of involvement, after numerous witnesses verify that he was at school during the time of the attacks.

**January 8, 2015 -**
-- Police name the prime suspects, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi. Police search for them in an area northeast of Paris, near Villers-Cotterêts.

-- A gunman dressed similarly to those in the Charlie Hebdo attack, all in black and wearing a bulletproof vest, shoots and kills a female police officer in the Paris suburb of Montrouge.

-- The Kouachi brothers steal food and gas from a gas station near Villers-Cotterets, according to a gas station attendant.

-- A U.S. law enforcement official tells CNN both Kouachi brothers were in a U.S. database of known or suspected international terrorists known as TIDE and also were on the no-fly list and had been for years.

-- In the evening, the [Eiffel Tower](http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/11/world/europe/eiffel-tower-fast-facts/index.html) briefly goes dark in remembrance of the victims.

**January 9, 2015 -**
-- In the morning, police and French special forces troops surround a building in Dammartin-en-Goele, northeast of Paris, where the Kouachi brothers are hiding inside with one hostage.

-- In the afternoon, a gunman enters a kosher grocery store in the Paris suburb of Porte de Vincennes, taking people hostage. The gunman is identified as Amedy Coulibaly. Police also link him to the attack in Montrouge. Also identified is his suspected accomplice, Hayat Boumeddiene. Officials say Coulibaly killed four hostages in the grocery store.

-- [At approximately 5 p.m., police launch an assault on the building in Dammartin-en-Goele, where the Kouachi brothers are hiding. The brothers are killed.](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/09/europe/charlie-hebdo-paris-shooting/index.html)

-- Shortly afterwards, police launch an operation against Amedy Coulibaly at the kosher grocery store. Four hostages are killed, and fifteen are rescued. Coulibaly is also killed.

-- [Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claims responsibility for the attacks.](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/10/europe/charlie-hebdo-paris-shooting/)

**January 11, 2015 -**
-- [Across France, approximately 3.7 million people march in anti-terrorism rallies.](http://www.cnn.com/2015/01/11/world/charlie-hebdo-paris-march/) In Paris, 40 world leaders, including French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and British Prime Minister David Cameron march with a crowd of 1.5 million people. U.S. President Barack Obama and [Secretary of State John Kerry](http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/20/us/john-kerry---fast-facts/) are noticeably absent.

**January 13, 2015 -**
-- [Funeral services are held in Israel for the four hostages killed in the kosher market.](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/13/europe/charlie-hebdo-france-attacks/index.html) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends.

-- [French President Francois Hollande awards The Order of Légion d'Honneur, France's highest honor, posthumously to the three slain police officers](http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/13/europe/charlie-hebdo-france-attacks/index.html) in the attacks, during a memorial ceremony at the Prefecture de Police in Paris.

-- Bulgaria arrests Frenchman Fritz-Joly Joachin on a European arrest warrant, citing alleged ties to terrorists and a possible connection to the Kouachi brothers.

**January 14, 2015 -**
-- Charlie Hebdo releases a new edition of its magazine, featuring a cartoon of the Muslim prophet Mohammed on the cover, holding a sign that says "Je suis Charlie."

-- AQAP claims responsibility for the operation carried out on Charlie Hebdo. Commander Nasr Ibn Ali al-Ansi says in a video statement ,"We clarify to the Islamic world that the one who chose the target, laid the plan, financed the operation and appointed its amir, is the leadership of the organization" adding that the arrangements for the operation were made by Anwar al-Awlaki "who threatens the west both in his life and after his martyrdom. Al-Ansi identifies both Cherif and Said Kouachi by name describing them as "heroes" and adds that "it was a blessing from Allah" that the operation coincided with the siege carried out by Amedy Coulibaly on the Kosher market.

-- French security services identify a fourth man suspected of involvement in the Paris attacks, according to the French newspaper, Le Parisien. The newspaper says the man may have been an accomplice of Amedy Coulibaly and driven him to the kosher supermarket.

## Why *Charlie Hebdo* Gets More Attention Than Boko Haram

Charlotte Alter covers lifestyle, crime, and breaking news for TIME in New York City. Her writing has also appeared in *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal.*

## Americans care a lot about attacks that seem like they could happen to them

A series of attacks, both in the name of Islamist extremism, occur in the same week. Three linked attacks kill 17 in Paris, another kills at least 150 in Nigeria (but perhaps up to 2,000). Guess which one gets most of our attention?

Many are calling the Jan. 7 attack on the office of *Charlie Hebdo* an attack on freedom of speech, or even an assault on Western values as a whole. Yet elsewhere in the world, those same values are being threatened by other extremists who want to spread fundamentalism. I’m talking, of course, about Boko Haram, the Islamist terrorist group in Nigeria that kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from their dorm last spring, murdered up to 2,000 civilians in Baga last week (although the bodies have not yet been officially counted), and over the weekend used a 10-year old girl as a suicide bomber to kill at least 16 people at a market (two other young girls wearing suicide vests killed three people in a separate attack.)

These attacks aren’t just brutal, they’re also part of a larger assault on freedom of religion and democracy, since the group targets Christians, non-Muslims, and anybody suspected of opposing their efforts to establish an African caliphate. Baga was reportedly perceived to have loyalties to the Nigerian government instead of Boko Haram, and the attack comes just weeks before Nigeria’s 2015 presidential election. Boko Haram, like many Islamist fundamentalist groups, oppose democratic elections.

Yet after the overwhelming global show of support for France in the wake of the Paris attacks, many are asking why there wasn’t similar widespread solidarity for Nigeria where far more people were killed. The hashtag #IamBaga, a variation on #JeSuisCharlie, has recently begun circulating to call attention to the massacre in Baga, a slaughter that Amnesty International is calling the group’s “deadliest act.” A Catholic Archbishop in Nigeria has called on the world community to support Nigeria the way it supported France. But even if you consider the brief blast of global awareness during last spring’s #BringBackOurGirls campaign, these calls to action seem feeble compared to the millions of marchers and more than 40 world leaders who flooded the streets of Paris this weekend.

No major dignitaries showed up in Abuja to support the Nigerian government after the Baga attack. In the week since the attack on *Charlie Hebdo*, the French terror plot has been the main headline in the national edition of the New York *Times* every day, but the most recent Boko Haram attack hasn’t appeared once on the front page. It wasn’t on the cover of the [New Yorker](http://www.mediaite.com/print/the-new-yorker-unveils-charlie-hebdo-tribute-cover/). Nobody wore #IamBaga buttons at the Golden Globes.

Of course, the two tragedies are incomparable, as tragedies usually are. The reports coming out of Baga are still sketchy, and there’s not yet an official death toll because Boko Haram still controls the area. The details of the *Charlie Hebdo* attacks were immediately available, and were accompanied by compelling video that quickly dominated every major news network. French President Francois Hollande is somewhat unpopular, but at least he responded quickly and effectively to the attack. Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan has been widely criticized for his incompetence at stopping Boko Haram– Jonathan released a statement condemning the Paris attacks, but his government reportedly played down the death toll in Baga. More importantly, the attack in Paris was largely unprecedented (*Charlie Hebdo* was firebombed in 2011, but nobody was hurt), while the massacre in Nigeria is part of a long string of Boko Haram attacks that some are even calling a “war“: the group killed over 10,000 people last year, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, and 1.5 million have fled their homes since the insurgency started. Plus, the fact that the *Charlie Hebdo* attack was a dramatic ambush of journalists may have added a layer of panic to the media coverage.

“The psychological distance between us and France is smaller than the psychological difference between us and Nigeria,” explains Paul Slovic, a professor of psychology at University of Oregon and president of Decision Research, a non-profit research institute that studies decision-making. “There’s a sense of personal vulnerability [in the Paris attack] that I don’t think one gets from the Boko Haram attacks,”

A recent Pew survey tracking American news interest in foreign terrorist attacks found that Americans were overwhelmingly more interested in attacks that happen in other Western countries or attacks on children. The 2005 train bombings in London and the 2004 killing of Russian children by Chechen rebels were the most closely watched by Americans (48% saying they’d followed each event closely), followed by the 2004 bombings in Madrid and the 2007 car bomb scare in London (34% said they followed those stories). 29% of Americans closely followed the most recent Paris attacks.

The only terrorists attacks in non-Western countries that got significant American attention were attacks on destinations that attract affluent visitors. For example, 29% said they closely followed the 2008 attack of Mumbai’s Taj Hotel. 25% followed the attack on an upscale mall in Nairobi, Kenya in 2013, and 20% followed the bombing of a nightclub in Bali, Indonesia in 2002. Recent terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, Iraq and at a Pakistan school didn’t make the list.

“We tend to empathize more with people that we feel are more ‘like us,'” says Marco Iacoboni, a psychiatry professor at UCLA. “I think in this case, cultural, anthropological differences can play a big role in how much we empathize with others. I jokingly call this the ‘dark side’ of empathy.”

Whether or not it’s morally right, that cognitive disconnect is exactly what the terrorists are betting on. When terrorists kill villagers in non-Western countries, it feels like one of many bad things that happen to poor people in far-away places. When terrorists attack Western cities Americans might live in, hotels Americans might stay in, or nightclubs Americans might dance in, it feels like a bad thing that could happen to you.

That’s a scary thought, which is exactly why the terrorists are doing it. But maybe we should be just as concerned about terrorists in Africa as we are of terrorists in the West. Not just because the lives of those killed in Nigeria were just as valuable as the lives of those killed in France, but because as long as people are killing in the name of Islamist extremism, or any extremism, all of us are at risk.

On Wednesday, video surfaced of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau praising the attacks in Paris, saying, “We have felt joy for what befell the people of France in terms of torment, as their blood was spilled inside their country.” It’s a chilling tribute that reminds us that when terrorism flourishes anywhere, it strengthens terrorists everywhere.