As American Muslims, who attended public schools, we learned a lot about Christianity and Judaism, but very little about Islam and what we did learn was often incorrect. With the growing rise of Islamophobia in the U.S. and in countries around the world, and Muslims being portrayed negatively in the media, we felt the need to help diminish some of those stereotypes. Our research aims to show the diversity within Islam, the contributions Muslims have made to the world, and ways we can educate young learners in an effort to begin a dialogue about why Islam should be considered an important topic in our curriculum.

Islam is often looked at as a controversial issue in education. However, as Elizabeth Hinde (2004) points out, “religion is a major aspect of life in the past and in the present. The relevance of teaching about Islam in schools became clear after 9/11. It became vital for students to understand that the actions of a few did not represent the beliefs of all Muslims.” (31)

Discussing this controversial issue is vital in the development of well-informed citizens who value diversity and equality. Citizens who will stand by our country’s core democratic values of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The first step in addressing this issue is education; and what better place to start than with our educators. By educating our teachers, we educate our children and if we educate our children we educate the world.