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**“Understanding Both Sides: A Report on Educational Solutions’ 2006 University
Dialogue Project on the Israel/Palestine Conflict”**

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Educational Solutions’ (ES) mission is to complement traditional learning by providing a global Internet-based forum for students to learn about and discuss challenging issues that divide communities and nations. In April/May 2006, ES conducted its second pilot dialogue on the Israel/Palestine conflict. During a one-month period, 37 students in classes at the American University of Sharjah (AUS), UAE and the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) studied the same curriculum developed and dialogued by Educational Solutions through its Website and videoconferencing facilities. Over 90% of the students reported increased understanding of both Palestinian and Israeli perspectives as well as improved critical thinking ability. Preliminary analysis shows that over 70% improved their knowledge of the conflict from pre to post test. Technical improvements on the ES dialogue site increased average postings per student from 7.6 to 9.4 in comparison to the first pilot in November 2005. Students were asked the following question: “What are the most important point(s) you learned in this course?” The following is a sample of individual responses: *AUS Response:* (1) “Western views on the Israel/Palestine conflict; cooperation between the West and Arab world can work; with peaceful negotiations a solution would arise;” (2) “Listening to the other side is always beneficial, because even if we don’t come up with solutions we will be reducing the amount of hatred and misunderstanding between different cultures and states.” *OIT Response:* (1) “Neither side can come to a resolution unless they understand the suffering of the *other*; (2) “Both sides of the conflict, not just those presented by the media.”