

Bringing a Worldview to Rural Students with Current Events



East Jackson Comprehensive High School
Jackson County School District, Commerce, GA


AT A GLANCE

After being asked to teach a new journalism class and run the school newspaper, English Teacher Melanie Lawhorn implemented The Juice to broaden students' awareness of world events and serve as a mentor for their writing.

EAST JACKSON COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL STATS

East Jackson Comprehensive High School is a rural high school located in in Jackson County.

 **1293**
students

 **53%**
economically disadvantaged

81 Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index
Range 0-100

<https://schoolgrades.georgia.gov/east-jackson-comprehensive-high-school>

CHALLENGES

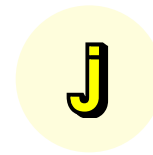
- Bringing awareness of the world to students in a rural community who have limited access to news outside of school
- Developing curriculum for a new journalism elective course and school newspaper

SOLUTION

- Using The Juice as a model for journalism and to also increase world awareness of current events



New Journalism Course



The Juice Current Events

RESULTS

1

Increased Awareness of The World

Students developed an increased awareness of what is happening in the world outside their rural community.

2

Desire for Further Research

Students used the articles in The Juice as inspiration for their own writing by seeking out additional research and information on a topic.



USING THE JUICE AS A MODEL FOR JOURNALISM

“The articles in The Juice help create empathy in my students for people they didn't know. It opened their eyes to a world that exists outside Commerce, Georgia.”

After being asked to teach a journalism class this school year, Melanie Lawhorn, English Teacher at East Jackson Comprehensive High School, knew that her students not only needed access to news, but they also needed to expand their worldview outside of the rural community in which they lived.

“We live in a rural community, so the amount of world news students have access to at home is limited,” said Lawhorn.

Since the program and school newspaper were new, Lawhorn was also responsible for writing the curriculum for the elective course. Lawhorn decided to subscribe to the local newspaper for her students but was also looking for a solution to serve as a model for writing and provide students with access to news outside their local community.

When looking for solutions, Lawhorn discovered The Juice. After trying it out, she found it to be a time-saving resource and decided to implement it as a class opener with her 9-12 grade students.

“I wanted an opener where they had access to world news and local news. I liked that The Juice was a blend of everything. It made it easier for me,” said Lawhorn.

Lawhorn also found that the articles and comprehension questions on the platform addressed one of their district priorities this year: literacy across the curriculum.

“The Juice really does meet the standard of pushing literacy across the curriculum with everything that it presents to the students,” said Lawhorn.

At the beginning of each class, Lawhorn had students read the articles and answer the questions in The Juice. Each week, she also asked students to select an article to take notes on, and she would select students to share their thoughts with the class.

In addition to using the articles in The Juice as exemplars for their own writing, students would use topics in The Juice as a springboard for their own articles for their school newspaper.

“Sometimes students would plan their own article based on something they read that they wanted to explore further,” said Lawhorn.



Melanie Lawhorn
East Jackson
Comprehensive High
School
Commerce, GA

BROADENING STUDENTS' WORLDVIEW

After using The Juice each day, Lawhorn noticed that The Juice fostered engaging dialogue among students and a desire for students to seek out information on their own, either because they were curious and wanted to learn more, or as research for their own article.

"The journalism program works more like a business and less like a classroom, so I did find them having conversations about things they read on The Juice that day," said Lawhorn. "Sometimes they would read something and say, 'whoa, is that really true?' and would go on to fact-check it, so it did spark some conversation and intriguing dialogue."

However, Lawhorn noted that the biggest success was how The Juice helped to broaden her students' worldview by providing them with access to articles and stories that extended outside their community.

"The articles in The Juice help create empathy in my students for people they didn't know. It opened their eyes to a world that exists outside Commerce, Georgia," she said.

By using The Juice, Lawhorn is helping to break some of the barriers to education rural students encounter by providing her students with access to current event content so they can gain a broader worldview.

ABOUT THE JUICE

Designed for grades 5+, each academic day, The Juice delivers five timely current events articles at four reading levels to help students build literacy. Educators and students receive daily rigorous short-form content, vocabulary, infographics, videos, embedded scaffolds, formative assessment, progress monitoring, data-informed instruction, and more! Standards-aligned, The Juice provides educators with flexibility and can be used with core instruction, intervention, enrichment, credit recovery, and extended day/year programs.