

IMPACT STUDY:

The Juice as an Effective Tool for Boosting Reading Comprehension & Civics and Current Events Knowledge



AT A GLANCE

Two quantitative studies further support the impact The Juice has on reading improvement and current event knowledge. Reading comprehension improved an average of 26.5% while current events and civics knowledge improved by 18.5%

STUDY DETAILS



4

Weeks



34

Students in 4th-12th Grade



Students were recruited from suburban CT, FL, NY and Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama

WHAT IS THE JUICE?

The Juice is an interactive learning platform designed to build strong readers and critical thinkers. Each night our team of educators and journalists create our original content so it's fresh in the morning. By 6 am, students and teachers receive five original articles about important news happening in the United States and around the world covering a variety of topics from the economy and government to STEM and SEL articles highlighting moral character. Articles are differentiated to 4 unique reading levels, while also building common knowledge. Each article—around 250 words in length—includes a standards-aligned assessment question that builds informational text mastery, as well as interactive Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary words.

Also included in each issue is a dedicated Word of the Day, Extra Juice supplements, which build background and civics knowledge, discussion questions, and an SEL question aligned to the CASEL framework. In addition students can interact with a short video designed to pique interest in STEM or the arts and the word guessing game, Fivesy. Teachers are also free to take content curation into their own hands with a search and bundling feature.

When students open The Juice, educators are able to monitor their real-time progression and completion through their teacher portal. In the teacher portal, one can track student progress, mastery of standards, and assign individual assignments to students based on their progress on standards.

The features in The Juice are designed to engage digital-native students with original short-form content they can interact with—fostering growth in their knowledge and skills, while enabling teachers to track their progress and plan for intervention and instruction.

STUDY SUMMARY

The Juice conducted two studies to assess the educational effectiveness of The Juice.

Both studies followed a similar format: students were recruited and were compensated upon completion of the four-week program (\$125 gift card). The recruited students were in the fourth through twelfth grades, with a majority between grades 4-6 and 9-10. 52% of the students identified as male, while 49% identified as female, and came from a mix of public and private schools. A third of the students were BIPOC. Students in the program were expected to complete The Juice every week day for four weeks—a total of 20 editions. At the start of the program, students were assessed for their reading comprehension skills, knowledge of civics and current events, and critical thinking dispositions. At the end of the program, students took a similar assessment. Parents and students also participated separately in a final interview.

RESULTS

1

Increased Reading Comprehension

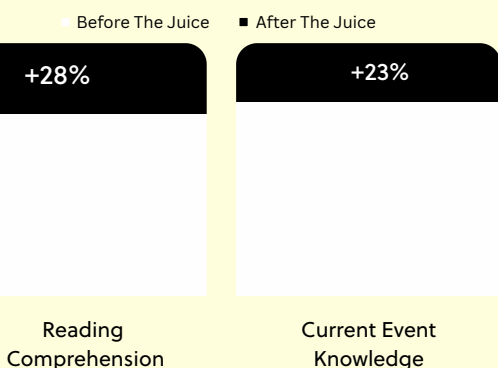
Students in both studies saw clear improvements in their reading comprehension skills.

2

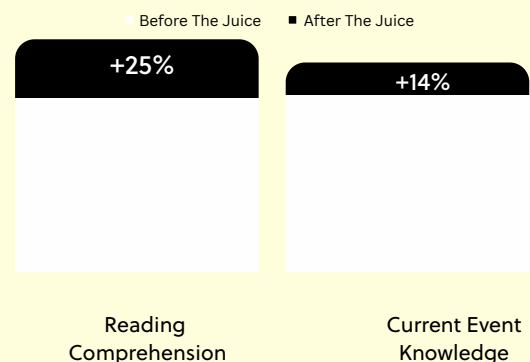
Increased Knowledge of Current Events and Civics

After using The Juice for a month, students increased their knowledge of current events and civics.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Alabama



Suburban Connecticut, New York, and Florida



In one study, which consisted of a group of 16 middle and high school students from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Alabama, students who read The Daily Juice for four weeks saw clear improvements in their reading comprehension skills and their knowledge of current events and civics. Students' reading comprehension scores increased by 28%, and their knowledge of current events and civics increased by 23%. In absolute terms, students improved 10.8% in reading comprehension and 7.2% in current events and civics.

In another study with 18 students between fourth and twelfth grades from suburban communities in Connecticut, New York, and Florida, similar results occurred. After completing The Daily Juice for one month students improved both their reading comprehension skills and their knowledge of current events and civics. On average, student reading comprehension scores increased by 25%, while their knowledge of current events and civics increased by 14%. Students improved by 11.4% in reading comprehension (i.e., 50% -> 61.4%) and 6% (i.e., 50% -> 56%) in current events and civics. On average, students absolutely improved their reading comprehension by 11.1% and current events and civics by 6.6%.

Students also demonstrated more confidence with conversations about the news - with their friends and especially their parents. Parents noticed this change. Many mentioned they observed an increase in curiosity and news awareness with their children.