

5 Ways to Incorporate Current Events in the Classroom



Learning current events in the classroom can teach our students important skills to help prepare them for their future. Reading something in the news can leave you wanting to know more. This is a wonderful way to teach students how to continue the research and find the facts.

We can use current events to teach kids how to find sources and how to determine whether they are reliable and unbiased. Students can learn to recognize fact from fiction and better navigate social media platforms where anyone can present information.

Exposing students to a variety of current events topics can increase interest in things they never would have researched on their own. This can open more doors and provide more options for career paths or personal interests.

And most importantly, these students will learn more about different cultures, religions, conflicts, food, and celebrations across the world that are different from their own. It increases empathy and connection with people they've never met or previously didn't understand.

1

Use a News Article to Warm Up the Class

Class warm-ups are a great way to get the juices flowing. Choose an article that relates to your lesson that day, the overall subject you teach, or something new and exciting that can start a class discussion. Have the article on each desk or on your virtual classroom agenda for students to start reading as soon as they enter your classroom. Follow up with a few discussion questions to encourage participation from the very start of class.

2

Have Students Create Their Own Podcast

Podcasts have become pretty popular over the years and I'm sure most students have listened to at least one or two. Having students create their own podcast on a current events topic can allow them to research something new and gain more insight or interest in world events. Provide a topic list for students to choose from or allow them to come up with their own. This can be a creative spin on your typical research project.

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3

Replace Your Literature With News-Based Articles

Building reading comprehension and vocabulary skills is a must, but the literature you use to teach it can be pretty flexible. Using news-based articles to teach these skills is an easy way to expose students to relevant topics that are happening around them. Not only are students gaining these significant reading skills, but these articles can also open the doors to meaningful discussions and debates about world topics.

4

News Scavenger Hunt

Print out a handful of articles in The Juice with pictures and headings. You can choose articles that pertain to your lesson plan or the subject you teach. Cut out the pictures, titles, and headings and mix them all up. Students then read the content of the articles and work together to try and match the pictures, titles, and headings to the correct story.

5

Create an Article Mix and Match

This activity can be done in any classroom and can bring some fun and excitement to topics that may initially seem uninteresting. Have a list of things for your students to look for as they read on The Juice. For example: Find a sentence that discusses a place in the world you've never been before, find a story about a person who achieved something significant, or find a picture of a type of food you've never tried.



ENVIRONMENT

Electric Blue Tarantula Discovery Shocks Arachnologists

Arachnophobes may have a deep and abiding fear of spiders, but if there's one species pretty enough to get them to take a second look, it mi...



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

Never Too Young to Help: 5-Year-Old's Lemonade Stand Raises \$17K for Maui

Thought Question: If you were to raise money for a good cause, what would it be and how would you do it?



US NEWS

Poverty Levels Spike in US, Especially Among Children

Poverty in the US dramatically increased last year as government aid programs that helped lower-income Americans through the pandemic ende...