



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Below is a list of ideas and ways you might use the resources provided for this Current Events Post to extend learning and civic engagement for your students.

Conversation for Understanding

Continuum Dialogue - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This is a provocative yet non-threatening way to get to know students' perspectives, beliefs, and opinions on current events, as well as potentially controversial issues. A Continuum exercise provides an opportunity for students to articulate their own ideas, revise their thinking throughout the process, and hear their classmates' viewpoints with respect and interest.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** A class may use the continuum dialogue activity as a way for students to discuss and explore the history, philosophy, and impacts of modern and historical executive orders. A teacher may present, one-at-a-time, a list of executive orders, both current day and historical, and have students determine to what degree that agree with that order. This activity can lead to a larger conversation about the efficacy of executive orders and their place in a representative democracy.

Media Literacy

Allsides - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Democracy only works when 'we the people' are informed. With the overwhelming number of news sources in the modern age, students need to learn how to identify bias either through selection of evidence or through the analysis of it. This lesson helps train them to be critical consumers of information.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can examine how the media is portraying the impact of President Biden's executive order pardoning federal marijuana possession. The class can use [THIS LINK](#), and see what media platforms deemed right, left, and center, in political alignment, are writing and saying about the recent order.



Research

Interpreting & Analyzing Data Visualizations - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This activity focuses on three types of quantitative data visualizations: charts, graphs, and tables. When students build the skills and habits to analyze and interpret data visualizations, they develop a deeper, more textured understanding of the Current Events they study.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** In light of the executive order to pardon federal cannabis possession convictions, students can look at polling data on national attitudes towards marijuana and the legalization of to currently classified level 1 narcotic. [DATA LINK](#).