



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLOSURES

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.

Beyond the Classroom

Conducting an Interview - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students learn the basic skills and techniques of conducting an interview to solicit a person's opinion about a specific Current Events topic.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can research the local new landscape of their community and then identify individuals who participate in (e.g., work for newspapers, rely on newspapers, etc.) to interview about the impact and importance of local news in their community.

Conversation for Understanding

Four Corners Discussion - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** A discussion technique that has students move around the room to demonstrate their current thought process behind the issues/topics being explored.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can explore issues and topics surrounding local newspaper closures through the Four Corners activity. Some initial prompts could include gauging students' understanding of the topic at hand, for example, "Each community in Oregon has enough newspapers to properly cover the news." These prompts can lead to sharing certain information and statistics around the current day landscape of local media in Oregon and the U.S. As the activity progresses, prompts can center around proposed solutions to ensuring communities continue to have local journalism covering the issues important to them.



Questioning

Question Formulation - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students practice the creation of questions and engaging with content on a deeper level. Through a series of steps, students generate questions, determine their strengths and weaknesses, and help categorize their thought process.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can be given the Thomas Jefferson quote from the Current Events page regarding government and press and generate questions about the importance of newspapers through the Questioning protocol.

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:** Students can analyze data from different states as it relates to newspapers, media coverage and the consolidation of media ownership.