



# CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## OREGON PUBLIC DEFENDER SHORTAGE

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 learn about the current state of public defense services in Oregon and then prepare to interview someone directly related to this issue. Possible interview subjects could include defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, someone affected by lack of timely legal counsel, experts in the legal field, or support staff in a public defenders organization.

### Conversation for Advocating

#### Socratic Seminar - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#) +++ [LINK TO GRAPHIC ORGANIZER](#)

- **Activity Summary:** A teacher poses an open-ended, overarching question, and then allows students to have a collaborative discussion using the questioning method with each other. It is inherently collaborative and encourages students to explore multiple facets of difficult topics and acknowledge diverse perspectives, even if they don't agree with them.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** The right to counsel, an ever evolving right expanded by the Supreme Court over 50 years ago is ripe for a socratic seminar with your students. Choose one or two of the articles or background resources for the students to ground their conversations. Then facilitate the discussion which could cover topics such as fairness, justice, and public safety can be discussed by students as they examine the Constitution and what, as a society, should be guaranteed to those accused of committing a crime.



## Research

### Issues & Solutions - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** The Issue & Solutions activity seeks to have students examine a current event and grapple with the complex issues and possible solutions centered around the topic. Students practice close reading skills while at the same time practice critical thinking skills in determining consequences and hierarchies.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can determine their own solutions to the public defense services issues currently taking place in Oregon. After research on the issue, the possible solutions, and what other states are doing to ensure right to counsel, students can adopt and highlight the solutions they think would work best in the state.

## Rhetorical Literacy

### Analysis of Judicial Decisions - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students learn how to describe the basic elements of a judicial decision and examine their own thoughts on the decision and its reasoning.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can examine one of the cases related to the right to counsel. These cases include [Gideon v. Wainwright](#), [Garza v. Idaho](#), [Texas v. Cobb](#), and [Strickland v. Washington](#)