



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

THE DEBT CEILING

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 Advocating

Silent Debate - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students sit side by side and debate an issue back and forth on the same piece of paper, each writing in their own column. Teachers can assign positions, including role play from the perspectives of historical or current people. This way students work together in an engaging way to identify multiple points of view on an issue.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can engage in research around the arguments both for and against the debt ceiling. Following the research period, students can then engage in a Silent Debate to discuss the topic, "Should the U.S. move away from the Debt Ceiling policy?".

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 visit the [Debt Ceiling post](#) on the Allsides website and follow the protocols set out in the Allsides activity linked above.

Current Events Analysis - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This set of activities combines reading for understanding with summarizing, predicting, and other key literacy skills. Additionally, there is an extension activity that allows students to practice historical comparison using the current event they have already examined.



- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can choose one of the articles or editorial pieces listed on the Current Event: The Debt Ceiling page on the Classroom Law Project website and analyze its contents by using the Current Events Analysis protocols. For the later half of the activity, students can compare and contrast media coverage and conversation of present day debt ceiling narratives to those taking place around 2011, in which the debt ceiling debate led to the U.S. dropping down in its credit score.