



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

## LOCAL NEWSPAPER CLOSURES

### VOCABULARY

**Directions:** Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Press (n.)** - Forms of mass media that focus on delivering news to the general public or a target public.
2. **Fourth Estate (n.)** - The press and news media both in explicit capacity of advocacy and implicit ability to frame political issues.
3. **Freedom of the Press (n.)** - The right to publish and broadcast newspapers, magazines, and other mediums without governmental restriction and subject only to the laws of libel, obscenity, sedition, etc.
4. **News Deserts (n.)** - A community, either rural or urban, with limited access to the sort of credible and comprehensive news and information that feeds democracy at the grassroots level.
5. **Federal Communications Commission (n.)** - An independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress that regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

### CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

**Directions:** As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- How does the U.S. Constitution address freedom of the press?
- What is meant by 'the fourth estate'?
- What is a "news desert", and how may they affect citizens who happen to live in one?
- How has the U.S. Supreme Court helped shape the parameters of which the press may operate under the law?
- Why is a free and comprehensive press essential for self-government?
- What are some interventions communities, governments, and businesses are trying to ensure local media continues to exist? Are these efforts yielding the intended results?
- In your opinion, what role should citizens, governments, and businesses play in local news media?
- In your opinion, how vital, if at all, is local media to exist in a community?