



# CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OREGON'S LAND USE SYSTEM

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:** Planning decisions are complex. The best way to learn all the intricacies of an issue is to talk to someone involved. Pick a topic that is going on in your town at present and have students interview stakeholders and decision makers. Then bring students together to compare what they learned from each person involved.

### 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:** Write this statement on the board: Urban Growth Boundaries are serving Oregon well. Students pair up for a silent debate. The student on the left takes an 'agree' stance and the person on the right takes a 'disagree' stance. If you want to use affirmative and negation terms instead of agree/disagree, you'd be super fancy.

### Conversation for Understanding

#### 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:** Housing is the number one issue on the minds of Oregonians. Have students work together to answer the question: How do we ensure Oregon has enough affordable housing for its population?

## Media Literacy

### Evaluating a Source - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students practice critically examining sources. There are many variations of this exercise that align to specific content, this activity attempts to be able to be applied universally, regardless of content/form.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Have students evaluate Governor Tom McCall's famous speech from 1973. Primary source: [full text and image of document](#)

## 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:** Using the interactive [map](#) and [lessons](#) from the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, have students come up with site specific solutions to maintain agricultural viability in your local community.

## Tools of Discrimination & Resistance

(Created by Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education)

### Connecting Current Events to Modern Day Discrimination/Oppression and Resistance

Resources for Activity

- [LINK TO LESSONS](#)

- [DISCRIMINATION AND RESISTANCE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Have students examine the Tools of Discrimination & Resistance resources published by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust



Education. Students should dedicate time to reviewing the stories that demonstrate the push-pull dynamic between discrimination and resistance. Students should examine the acts of discrimination and/or resistance within this week's Current Event Topic and connect it to the acts of discrimination and resistance highlighted in the OJMCHE resources. Following this initial examination, students can participate in either a research based project or perform in a collective act of resistance outlined in the OJMCHE materials.

- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Investigate discriminatory land use practices of Oregon and see which ones still need to be dismantled. You can start with the history of redlining in Portland. Here's [an article](#) published by the Smithsonian Magazine.