



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

DEFAMATION CASES

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 a silent debate around the question, "defamation laws are too restrictive of free speech". After learning about defamation laws and the elements one must prove to find someone guilty of defamation, have students advocate for a side in this ongoing debate around the scope and elements centered on this free speech issue.

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:** After students have been exposed to and understand the essential elements of defamation, a teacher can have students engage in a four corners activity, in which they share various scenarios in which defamation may or may not be at play. These scenarios can be real life examples, or those generated by the teacher.



Media Literacy

Evaluating Media Sources - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students will read, analyze, and evaluate various media sources focused on a particular topic or theme. This lesson allows students to practice the vital critical thinking skills associated with media literacy, while at the same time, obtaining content knowledge on important current event issues associated with their class-based curriculum.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Students can choose two of the articles or editorials listed in the Current Events post, "Defamation Cases", and analyze their approach, bias, and truthfulness about defamation cases, or defamation laws at large.

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 follow the "Analysis of Judicial Decisions" protocol using one of the most famous Supreme Court decisions on defamation, [New York Times v. Sullivan](#).