



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

SOCIAL MEDIA & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

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:** After researching the topics addressed in the "Current Events: Social Media & Youth Mental Health" post, have students conduct interviews with their peers around social media consumption and what the students think should be done to regulate social media platforms.

Conversation for Understanding

Continuum Dialogue - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This is a provocative yet non-threatening way to get to know students' perspectives, beliefs, and opinions on current events, as well as potentially controversial issues. A Continuum exercise provides an opportunity for students to articulate their own ideas, revise their thinking throughout the process, and hear their classmates' viewpoints with respect and interest.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** A teacher can lead a discussion on social media platforms' role in society and their impacts on young people. Using the Continuum Dialogue, students can discuss topics such as "Social Media is a net negative in society", "Social Media does not need to be further regulated by the government", "It is the responsibility of individuals and families to responsibly use social media".



Media Literacy

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 follow the Current Events Analysis protocols to examine the articles and editorials posted in the “Current Events: Social Media & Youth Mental Health” post on the CLP website.

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 do deeper research into the studied effects of social media on the mental health of young people and the proposed and enacted mitigations against the harmful effects. From there, students can engage in the Issue & Solutions protocol and determine which solution(s) would be most effective and impactful.