



# CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## *U.S. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS*

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:** After being introduced to concepts centered on the U.S. federal government shutdown and the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act, have students engage in the silent debate protocol to discuss and determine the pro's and con's of such a bill.

### 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:** Using one of the resources from the "U.S. Federal Government Shutdowns" Current Event on the Civics Learning Project's website as an anchor, have students engage in a socratic seminar to discuss the present day, historical, and structural issues surrounding U.S. government shutdowns.



# 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:** Students can examine the point of view of sources through reading and analyzing multiple media sources. This activity can be done to have students analyze, specifically, who, if anyone, does the resource hold responsible for the 2023 shutdown talks/negotiations.

## Research

### Interpreting & Analyzing Data Visualizations - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This activity focuses on three types of quantitative data visualizations: charts, graphs, and tables. When students build the skills and habits to analyze and interpret data visualizations, they develop a deeper, more textured understanding of the Current Events they study.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Using charts such as the one in [THIS ARTICLE](#), students can use visualizations to understand more about the history and context around the U.S. Federal government shutdowns.