

CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

YOUTH, THE COURTS, AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

Write an Editorial - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students go through a research, drafting, editing, and revision process to generate OpEd's about Current Event issues.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** After reading a number of articles and editorials on the topic of youth climate activism in the courts, students can write their own editorials. This writing can focus on the recent *Held v. Montana* decision, or the general concept of using lawsuits as activism.

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:** As an introduction to the climate change topic, use the Continuum Dialogue protocol to get students thinking about climate change issues and various ways people, especially young people, have sought to make change in the name of protecting the earth's environment.

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:** Have students analyze various media sources covering the *Held v. Montana* case, so they can evaluate how these sources present the lawsuit, the young people that brought it, and its impacts on the climate protection movement.

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:** With guidance from a teacher and/or volunteer legal experts, students can examine some of the key elements and findings of the [Held v. Montana case](#).