



# CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## *THE CONSTITUTION & FOREIGN AFFAIRS*

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:** Have students debate one or more topics as it relates to who is in charge within the federal government of foreign relation actions. For example, a prompt can be shared to have students discuss who should be in charge of declaring war, or ratifying treaties. Students can also debate more specific items like the role of ambassadors, or compare/contrast the U.S. 's system of foreign relations with that of other nations.

### 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:** As a pre-test prior to diving into the Constitution and foreign affairs. Create a four corners activity in which students move to one of four corners of the room. The corners could be labeled with "Executive Branch", "Legislative Branch," "Judicial Branch", "The States". From there, have students guess/determine which government branch/group is responsible for various aspects of foreign relations. This activity can be revisited at the end of the class/unit.

# 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:** After students have had an introduction to U.S.'s foreign relations and the guidance provided by the U.S. Constitution, allow students to pick a modern day foreign relations topic to dive deeper on. Students can then complete the Evaluating Media Sources protocol by using two different sources covering the same student-chosen topic.

## Questioning

### Question Formulation - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students practice the creation of questions and engaging with content on a deeper level. Through a series of steps, students generate questions, determine their strengths and weaknesses, and help categorize their thought process.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Using a segment or quote from the U.S. Constitution that speaks towards foreign relations as a foundation of the activity, have students practice their questioning skills using the Question Formulation protocol.