



CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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 students have studied the requirements involved with being elected to the United States House of Representatives, have the students examine if those requirements are adequate for the 21st century. Students can engage in the Silent Debate protocol with a prompt like, "There needs to be more requirements for an elected official serving in the U.S. House of Representatives".

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:** Using one or more of the articles listed in the "United States House of Representatives" Current Events post on CLP's site, students can examine how the modern press covers the institution and individuals of the U.S. House.

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:** As an introduction to the House of Representatives, students can generate a series of questions about the legislative chamber, starting with an examination of the prompt, "The House of Representatives is the 'People's House'".

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:** After researching some of the issues that have been identified with the structure and functions of the House of Representatives, students can engage in the Issues & Solutions protocols to come up with their own solutions to some of the perceived challenges of the institution.