

Current Event Discussion Guide



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Grade Level: 9-12

Lesson time: 60 minutes

Overview

Lookout's Current Event Discussion Guide was created for teachers to easily use local current events in their classrooms with the intention of students feeling more informed about and connected to their town and community. These guides allow high school students to have conversations around a variety of topics that directly affect them and the place they live. Another aspect of the guides is to provide a way for students to think critically about how and what information they absorb, learning media literacy in the process of these discussions. The guides themselves provide a list of discussion questions, a library of local articles separated by topic and articles that are updated regularly.

How best to use this guide in your classroom

These guides are best used for icebreakers in the classroom. You can use them weekly or monthly as a regular practice, or you can supplement literature or curriculum you are teaching by having a discussion around a topic that relates to your teaching. These conversations will get students' brains thinking about the themes and topics you are teaching and connect them to something local. Although it will be best to use the most current articles in the classroom, older articles on current topics can still produce great conversations. This lesson plan can take anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour, depending on if you assign the reading beforehand and the level of talkativeness of students in your class.

Discussion Questions

The questions for this activity will remain the same for all articles. You can print out pages 3 and 4 and pass them out if doing the activity in the classroom or send the questions digitally along with the article of your choice. We have a printable/shareable questions only doc for this purpose. We will update our article library frequently to provide you current events. Feel free to use these questions and articles in the best ways for your class.

Need anything?

If you need help with accessing the articles or have questions please email:

JAmenda Coers, amanda@lookoutlocal.com

Lesson Plan



PREPARATION

Before you start the lesson, choose the current event or article of your choice from our article library. If assigning this beforehand, send the link of the article to your students along with the current event discussion questions (next two pages).

What	Details	Timing
Introduction	Introduce the project and share the article. Could be assigned as homework or done in class.	5 minutes
Read and answer questions	Have students read the article & write down the answers to the main questions below.	25 minutes
Small groups	Split your class into small groups, having a conversation around each question, comparing their answers.	15 minutes
Share out	Have each group share out loud their answers and how they were similar & different.	10 minutes
Conclusion	Conclude your discussion by thanking them for sharing their thoughts and encourage them to continue their critical thinking skills when taking in new information.	5 minutes

Current Event Discussion Questions

Read the article provided and answer the following questions.

Response & Relevance

Question 1: What did you think of this article? Why?

Question 2: Who would you share this article with? Why?

Question 3: What does this article make you wonder?

Media Literacy

Question 1: Do you trust the information in this article? Why or why not?

Discussion Questions Continued...



Question 2: Can you clearly identify where the information comes from?

Question 3: What is the tone of the article? Does the author seem to have an opinion?

Take-Aways

Question 1: What surprised you or confused you about this article?

Question 2: What questions do you have after reading this story?

Question 3: What do you know now, that you didn't know before reading this?

Question 4: After reading this, what kind of solution do you see possible to the issue?