



# The Case for Current Events

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There can be good news



# About Me

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- 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher
- 10 Years in Education
- My history with CEs

# What's in the News?

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- US Capitol Riots
- House Votes on Second Impeachment
- Biden Inauguration
- COVID vaccine information
- New Covid Strains
- Senate set to try second impeachment
- That's just what's going on since January 1st.

# What's Going On Here?

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- Information literacy
- News as genre
- Identifying/understanding sources
- How do we engage with the news?
- What is our responsibility?

# Current Events in the Classroom

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- What do we teach?
- How can current events elevate that?
- Cultivating student engagement.
- Having discussions around current events issues
- Think about learning goals

# Some Personal Reflection

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- Where do we get our news?
- What are the pros of this source?
- What are the cons?
- Would we recommend it to students?
- Why or why not?

# Sources for Current Events

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- Curate carefully
- Be aware of subtext
- Decide what is right for you and your students
- Model this to students
- Personally I use Newsela.com

# Current Events Discussions

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- Create and enforce collaborative discussion norms
- Create a culture of respect and safety
- Anticipate student comfort level
- Assess your own comfort level



# Finding Space for Current Events

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- Creating text sets
- Current events and inquiry
- Current events and research
- Free choice and making connections
- We interrupt our regularly scheduled programming...

# Final Thoughts

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- Current events are vital
- We need to teach literacy
- Elevate what we already do
- Integrate the activities
- Make space for unplanned discussions
- Comfort and safety
- The students follow our lead
- Questions?

# Thank You!

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