

FOUR KEYS TO SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES



Issues & Controversies

Engage



Engage students with the power of choice.

Empower



Empower students to explore their interests.

Elevate



Elevate struggling students with additional support.

Extend



Extend high-achieving students to new heights.





MODULE: CURRENT EVENTS

LESSON OBJECTIVE

INTEGRATE INFORMATION FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY, INTO A COHERENT UNDERSTANDING OF AN IDEA OR EVENT.

The definition of “text” in the 21st century has evolved to include more than just the written word, and students learn through a variety of media. Building a coherent understanding of contemporary issues involves more than reading; it includes watching and listening, as well as interpreting and synthesizing.

Issues & Controversies embraces a diverse range of sources, including traditional text, video, and audio recordings. Students can integrate information from primary and secondary sources in all forms.

LESSON IDEA:

One of the most powerful ways to engage students is through choice. *Issues & Controversies* includes such a deep repository of information on each topic that students can choose how they want to engage with the information, whether through video, audio, visual, or written content.

Extend the choice further by allowing students to choose how to present their information. Using the *Issues & Controversies* resources as a model, they could write a traditional research paper, prepare for a debate, or create a video or infographic.

Engage

Engage students with the power of choice.



Choice is a powerful instructional tool when wielded carefully. Instructional choice gives students the power to choose their own learning path, helping them to become independent and self-directed learners.





MODULE: CURRENT EVENTS

Empower

Empower students to explore their interests.



Connecting to students' interests is a powerful tool. Supplemental resources and student choice are the perfect way to connect to students' interests without feeling like we're entertaining students.



LESSON OBJECTIVE

INTEGRATE INFORMATION FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY, INTO A COHERENT UNDERSTANDING OF AN IDEA OR EVENT.

Social studies curricula are expansive, spanning a wide range of issues and topics relevant to contemporary times. With so many topics, it's almost a guarantee students will find something that sparks their interests.

Issues & Controversies features more than 500 Pro/Con articles on hundreds of contemporary issues, providing students the ability to explore topics that are interesting or relevant to them. Students can explore Pro/Con articles in the news from the *Issues & Controversies* home page, use the search feature to look for specific topics of interest, or even browse through the hundreds of overview, QuickTake, and Intelligence Squared debate videos.

LESSON IDEA:

Empower students to explore the issues and controversies that interest them by implementing an Issue of the Month assignment. Each month, students can use *Issues & Controversies* to find a topic about which they want to learn more. They can use the Pro/Con articles, Intelligence Squared debate videos, QuickTake videos, primary sources, multimedia, infographics, editorials, and more to become an expert on their topic.

Extend the assignment by challenging students to present about their topic to their peers each month!





MODULE: **CURRENT EVENTS**

LESSON OBJECTIVE

DETERMINE THE CENTRAL IDEAS OR INFORMATION OF A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SOURCE; PROVIDE AN ACCURATE SUMMARY OF HOW KEY EVENTS OR IDEAS DEVELOP OVER THE COURSE OF THE TEXT.

Elevate

Elevate struggling students with additional support.



Supplemental resources can elevate struggling students by providing additional exposure and practice with key concepts and skills in a variety of modalities and media.



Many students struggle with determining the central idea and summarizing difficult texts. In social studies classes, students need to be able to do this with primary and secondary sources to develop an understanding of the concept or event.

Issues & Controversies can elevate struggling students by providing high-quality examples of summaries and a plethora of topics to explore. Pro/Con articles summarize controversial topics from both sides of the argument, and overview and QuickTake videos are short summaries of high-interest issues. Each topic is supported by primary and secondary sources.

LESSON IDEA:

Court cases are among the most difficult items to summarize. *Issues & Controversies* summarizes pivotal court cases by explaining each one's Background, Legal Issues, Decision, and Impact. This structure can provide the scaffold that struggling students need to practice summarizing.

Using the *Issues & Controversies* court case summaries as a model, have students replicate the form to summarize court cases relevant to the lesson or their interests.





MODULE: **CURRENT EVENTS**

LESSON OBJECTIVE

EVALUATE DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW
ON THE SAME EVENT OR ISSUE BY ASSESSING CLAIMS,
REASONING, AND EVIDENCE.

Extend

Extend high-achieving students to new heights.



Supplemental resources can take on-level lessons to new heights by creating extensions to the curriculum. Guides and examples can create opportunities to push students above the skills in the curriculum.



Opinions and bias can cloud discourse on important issues and topics, making communication and coming to a consensus difficult, if not outright impossible in some cases. Evaluating differing points of view is an essential skill, not just for students but also for responsible citizens of the world.

Issues & Controversies includes hundreds of Intelligence Squared debate videos that feature scholars, journalists, and experts debating contemporary issues in a formal setting. These debates show students that people can share information and disagree with each other in a civil, respectful fashion.

LESSON IDEA:

A Socratic seminar is a method of discussion that enables students to share and defend their opinions while also learning from the opinions of their peers. By utilizing this method in social studies classrooms, students can deepen their understanding of an important issue or event, while sharpening their respectful discussion skills.

Use the *Issues & Controversies*' Pro/Con articles to assign a topic of discussion and prepare them for the Socratic seminar. Have them watch an Intelligence Squared debate video and see how experts present their ideas and arguments using facts, data, and persuasive reasoning. Challenge students further by assigning them the side opposite to their own personal beliefs.





Issues & Controversies

Each of these keys can have a significant impact on student learning. Taken all together, they have the ability to unlock student potential with supplemental resources.

Engage

Engage students with the power of choice.



With the range of sources available in *Issues & Controversies*, students can be allowed the choice of how they consume new information on relevant topics. Engage students further by extending that choice to their preferred method of presenting information.

Empower

Empower students to explore their interests.



With hundreds of issues and controversies spanning topics from animal rights to women in the military, students can find topics that are interesting or relevant to their lives. A Topic of the Month assignment can empower students to find and integrate information from diverse sources.

Elevate

Elevate struggling students with additional support.



A difficult task for many students, summarizing primary or secondary sources can present a barrier to understanding complex contemporary topics. By using the high-quality summaries from *Issues & Controversies*, students can see models of how to synthesize and summarize key information.

Extend

Extend high-achieving students to new heights.



Socratic seminar-style discussions are a great way to push high-achieving students, especially when they have to defend an opinion opposite from their own. *Issues & Controversies*' Pro/Con articles provide the support and resources to prepare and conduct the seminar, and Intelligence Squared debate videos provide excellent models for students to follow.

