
Using News Currents Sr. in the classroom

1. Preview the issue.

Every weekly issue of News Currents Sr. is available for preview as of the previous Saturday. Before your session, skim through the images and the story guide to familiarize yourself with the material.

2. Select the stories.

News Currents Sr. stories cover a wide range of topics, including national and international news, developments in science and technology, economics, history, the arts, sports, and more. Most activity directors present the entire issue during the week, but you might consider breaking it into two or three smaller sessions so you're not rushing through. Also, if there is a topic or story that you do not think your group is ready to discuss, you can easily skip or postpone it.

3. Choose a discussion level.

There are three story guides available on the website, as many stories are written on multiple levels: "Basic," "General," and "Advanced." If you download these guides to a tablet or cellphone, you can easily adjust the level on the fly instead of having to flip through printed paper – and it's better for the environment, too!

4. Keep their heads up with large bold images.

The story guide is to help moderate discussions. The accompanying images – photos, maps, charts, quotes, graphs, etc. – are visual references for residents. Show these images on the largest screen you can, and click on the icon to blow them up to full size. This will help focus their attention on the stories, and help visual learners grasp concepts more easily.

5. Establish discussion rules WITH your residents.

Every life enrichment moderator should have a few fundamental rules about how to listen and speak during a discussion. These rules will always work better if you get group buy-in first. Residents will often come up with great ideas on their own!

6. Encourage participation.

Don't be afraid of going a little bit off the "official" topic if the discussion is going well. And make sure that two or three voices are not dominating the discussion – every resident should feel empowered and confident to share their thoughts.

7. Paraphrase the discussion guide.

The story texts are there to serve as a guide, not a lecture. Discussions will feel more organic if you are talking in your authentic voice. Don't forget to check in with the group to make sure that everyone understands the important points of each story.

8. Reproduce the activities.

Every issue also contains downloadable activities. Some are academic – the geography feature, the leveled quizzes – while some are more fun. You can use these activities to assess knowledge gains and to make sure that all group members get involved!



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