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How does Newsela enhance your instruction?



Newsela has a plethora of resources that can be applied to almost any unit topic. The text sets and graphic organizers definitely come in handy during group and individual projects. I love that some graphic organizers also come in different formats, so that I can tailor projects to individual students.

For example, for our Debate unit, I pulled resources from Opinion text sets and Debate text sets. Throughout the unit, my learners were able to understand strategies for making arguments, how to identify strong arguments with evidence, and how to organize their thoughts and opinions. By the end of the lesson, my class was able to organize their opinions, reasoning, and evidence on a topic and discuss it with others.

The articles and organizers make for smooth transitions between building knowledge and application. Newsela has much to offer and I am always discovering new ways to teach a topic.

What problem does Newsela help solve for you and/or your students?



Newsela makes life easier for both students and teachers in substantial ways.

I teach classes with mixed levels, ranging from beginning English to high conversational English. The ability to change Lexile levels, as well as edit suggested writing prompts, makes life so much easier when lesson planning. My learners are able to learn the same information at a level that is suitable for them individually so that the class can make progress as a whole.

The instructional sets and project ideas also allow for more seamless lessons. Rather than pulling materials from various sources and finding ways to connect them all for a coherent unit, I can open Newsela and find an activity that already has connected readings.

How have you used Newsela in your classroom to help build background knowledge for your students?



Topic Guides are my best friend when it comes to building knowledge, especially those in the Massachusetts Adult Basic Education Collection. This was clear during our Financial Literacy unit last year.

The Financial Literacy topic came with a plethora of readings and activities on various subtopics. Throughout the unit, we learned about the difference between debit and credit, the importance and maintenance of credit scores, and the options for budgeting, saving and investing money. At the end of the unit, the learners were given different fictional people's financial situations. They had to think about all the new information they had about financial literacy to come up with solutions or suggestions for the person. It led to a fruitful discussion about the benefits of the different solutions they found.