




Micaya Clymer

North Shore Community College,
Adult Learning Center


HSE Instructor

How does Newsela enhance your instruction?




The Massachusetts Adult Basic Education Collection in Newsela has become a go-to resource when I'm lesson planning for my high school equivalency classes! My students are preparing for their HiSET and GED exams, and the subject-specific "Reading for Meaning" text sets are fantastic preparation for these mostly reading-based exams. I especially appreciate that these text sets and associated suggested activities make differentiation and student choice easy. Students are able to complete activities with the texts that most appeal to them, and I am able to easily adjust reading levels based on which students I have in class on a given day. I also appreciate that many of the text sets in this collection incorporate short articles, longer articles, and graphics.

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



One problem we encounter in our high school equivalency classes is that learning about punctuation and grammar can be just plain boring. I found that my adult students really enjoy collaborative editing assignments, so now I find short Newsela articles and use those to create group activities for my students to practice grammar and mechanics. For example, if we have been learning about comma use, I might edit a relevant or timely article to contain several errors in comma usage. Then, I give my students the edited article and have them work in groups to find and correct the errors while engaging with content-rich nonfiction. This week, we are reviewing parts of speech, so I have underlined twenty words in a text that is also relevant to our social studies instruction. Students will read that article, answer the multiple choice questions, and also work in groups to name the part of speech of each underlined word. I appreciate that Newsela makes finding engaging, relevant texts very easy so that I can focus on other parts of lesson planning.

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



Math and writing are often the content areas that adult high school equivalency students need the most help with. This means that we spend the majority of our precious class time on language arts and math, and much less time on social studies and science. I use Newsela text sets, articles, multiple-choice questions, and writing prompts to incorporate social studies and science background knowledge into language arts instruction. For example, my students are simultaneously practicing close reading strategies and learning key terms in earth science using the "Reading for Meaning in Earth Science" text set.