



# CURRENT EVENTS - EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## (OREGON'S 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION)

Below is a list of ideas and ways you might use the resources provided for this Current Events Post to extend learning and civic engagement for your students.

### Beyond the Classroom

**Write an Editorial** - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students go through a research, drafting, editing, and revision process to generate OpEd's about Current Event issues.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Have students research the various bills and proposed legislation topics currently being debated in the Oregon 2023 legislative session. They have students determine a topic or topics they are interested in, and have them determine what types of actions they would like to advocate for, as it relates to the proposed legislation. Finally, have students write an Op-Ed to a local newspaper explaining their stance through a persuasive, informative piece.

### Conversation for Understanding

**Continuum Dialogue** - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** This is a provocative yet non-threatening way to get to know students' perspectives, beliefs, and opinions on current events, as well as potentially controversial issues. A Continuum exercise provides an opportunity for students to articulate their own ideas, revise their thinking throughout the process, and hear their classmates' viewpoints with respect and interest.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Find and research a topic that is currently being discussed by the Oregon legislature and aligns with content in your curriculum. In addition to regular instruction, have students participate in a Continuum Dialogue on the topic, so they can be exposed to a variety of viewpoints and opinions on whatever the chosen topic is.



## Research

### Issues & Solutions - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** The Issue & Solutions activity seeks to have students examine a current event and grapple with the complex issues and possible solutions centered around the topic. Students practice close reading skills while at the same time practice critical thinking skills in determining consequences and hierarchies.
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Have students research the topics being discussed by the Oregon legislature and have them complete the Issue and Solution worksheet, using the legislative topics as the “issues” in the worksheet.

## Rhetorical Literacy

### Argument Identification - [LINK TO DIRECTIONS](#)

- **Activity Summary:** Students deconstruct arguments and identify elements within that argument, in order to expose them to persuasive arguments and writing. To have students name, describe, and identify elements of persuasive writing, they will be better equipped to do the same in Current Event writings and resources in the future
- **Suggestion for this Current Event:** Have students examine the arguments being made, and how they are being made about a chosen legislative topic that has garnered attention in the 2023 Oregon legislative session.