



Students 4 Social Change

Students 4 Social Change gives teachers a tool to integrate argumentative writing and critical thinking into Civics and Social Studies classes.

Current Events Op-Eds

Students 4SC is an editorial articles activity, where student-written articles on current issue and events are published on our website.

Students who participate in our activity write an editorial (op-ed) article on a current event or issue as if they were writing for the New York Times or similar editorial sections. Through the activity, students are better able to understand persuasive writing by imagining how they would defend their opinion to a wide audience.

We provide lesson plans, resources, and a platform for teachers who want to integrate our argumentative writing course material into their classrooms.

Independent Activity

Universal Use

The activity can be implemented regardless of the current topic or sub-area being studied. For example, if the current unit is on the Supreme Court, teachers can have students write about current cases on the docket, or classes studying Civil Rights can focus on current issues in Civil Rights.

Teachers can also assign or recommend students to enroll in our 8-week hybrid online program that takes them through lessons on argumentative writing and persuasion while giving them feedback each week on a new article that they write. Students can sign up on their own at students4sc.org.

Visit us at <https://students4sc.org>

ASSIGNMENT

Goal

The project aims at getting students to think about current events with a balanced perspective. By using their research and writing to immerse themselves into the issue, students will explore and address the nuances of the topics they hear about and write an article defending an opinion they form. Through this exercise, students will learn how to develop strong thesis statements, respond to counter-arguments, and write with a broader audience in mind. Overall, this project will foster not only strong analytical skills but also critical, empathy and listening skills necessary for becoming an effective civic leader.

Why?

There are two learning goals:

1) To defend a perspective by researching and writing about nuances of their opinion. If students can empathize with and understand the nuances of an argument, especially one they may disagree with, they will be better skilled to debate and defend their position on the topic.

2) To encourage students to be "public intellectuals" who are capable of sharing their work with the broader public.

Contact us



@educators4sc



students4sc.org

Steps for students

- 1 Choose an event from the news you're following or is of particular interest to you, or that you'd like to analyze on a deeper level.
- 2 Compile contextual information on that event (using news sources and professional opinions) that will help to set the stage for your Op-Ed. (Note: having a good understanding of the context surrounding the event of your choice will strengthen your writing.)
- 3 Outline the argument in your own words. Start with a strong thesis sentence that ties together the rest of your article. Find supporting evidence from the scene of your choice.
- 4 Think about who your audience will be. Will you try to explain it to policymakers, parents, or voters? Think about the perspective from which you're writing. What issues will your op-ed address? Keep in mind that whoever/whatever topic you address, your writing should try to persuade someone who disagrees with you.
- 5 Create a draft of your article. Make sure to focus on the persuasiveness of the argument, at this point. Have someone read it. What questions did they have? Did they find it unclear? Is your piece convincing?
- 6 Fix the errors you encounter in Step 5 and focus on final touches (grammar, syntax, clarity).

Deliverables

- Students will submit an article of about 750 words, written about a current issue or event that they are interested in.
- Article topics are chosen by the writer but must first be approved by the instructor.