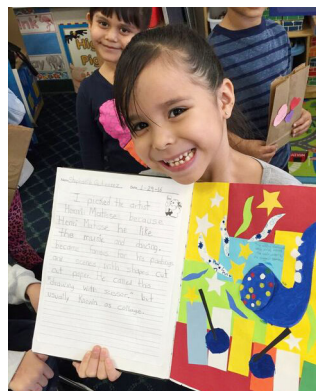


Right Now!



Literacy Draws Upon Art



Introduction

How do we bring today's news, issues, and celebrations to children's attention and engage them in problem solving and action? This lesson helps children make sense of current events and stories they find in newspapers and magazines or on news websites.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Children will:

- identify current events photographs of interest;
- extract insights about current events in their community;
- create a modification of the visual based on what they know about current events so they can develop a visual argument for action; and
- present their work, listen to responses for feedback, and modify the image for clarity and impact.

Vocabulary

observe
current events
photograph
magazine

newspaper
media
change
argument

call to action
clarity
impact

Essential Questions

- How do community members learn about current events?
- How do people determine what current events information is real and what is important?
- How do visual messages impact behaviors? What characteristics in art or news stories draw attention to a message?
- What skills can be strengthened by examining news about current events?

Guiding Questions

- Which images about current events are most compelling?
- How do inquiry and inference build understanding of the main message?
- What action could be taken toward solving the underlying problem of the current events story?
- What visual art strategies could draw attention to a poster or sign that would convey the main message?
- After sharing the artwork with others, what changes would you make based on their suggestions?

Supplies

- Magazines, newspapers, and media with current events images
- Drawing paper
- Crayola colored pencils
- Crayola markers
- Scissors
- Tape

Prepare

Have children find a space to work that is away from heavily trafficked areas and in a place where they can safely work with art materials.

Applying SEEK to this Lesson

Ask children to choose an image from a current events news report and look closely at the visual while discussing the SEEK questions.

SEE: What does the image show? What current events story does the image pertain to?

EVIDENCE: What specific objects and words in the image relate directly to this news story?

EXPLAIN: How did the photographer's or artist's choices of composition, proportions, and colors help to convey the main idea and provide supporting details?

KNOW: What is known about the big problem or issue? What else do we want to know?

SEEK™

SEE

What do you see?

EVIDENCE

Why do you say that?
What is the evidence?

EXPLAIN

What decisions did the artist make? Why?

KNOW

What do you know?
What else do you want to know?



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Look for powerful images from a current events story in print or online media. Analyze that image to identify effective art strategies that convey the message or show the problem and use these insights to create a persuasive art poster or sign.

- Use the SEEK™ questions to explore the chosen image.
- Have children think about a solution to the problem and then create a poster or sign to remind themselves and others of the action that would help, which is often described as the *call to action*.
- Consider the photographer's or artist's composition. What is in the image and how do colors and proportions influence viewers and draw attention to parts of the art? Experiment with different sizes of objects and types of lines as well as various colors to see which help express your message.
- Decide if the artwork will be a wall poster, a hanging sign to serve as a reminder, or a small note posted on the refrigerator or a bulletin board.
- Sketch a practice draft first, experimenting with how to emphasize the most important words and visual components. Refine the sketch to create a finished project that can be shared.



- Identify an audience, such as a family member or neighbor. Remember that work can be shared electronically by sending a photo or using a phone app like FaceTime.
- Select key messages to convey to the audience and plan the presentation.
- Present the work and invite questions and suggestions.
- Consider revisions or extensions of the work as a result of feedback.



Have children respond to:

- the original media image using SEEK questions;
- their work as it develops, stepping back to be sure the big idea is clearly shown in words and pictures;
- feedback from others by revising and deepening the work; and
- suggestions for where to display the poster or sign.



- Have children think about ways they can connect with others even when they are far apart. How could they use phones or other digital devices to share ideas and images and respond to others' work?
- Ask children to connect this lesson to the work done by news reporters, photojournalists, and graphic illustrators. Find additional examples of current events images that demonstrate different ways messages can be visualized.

For Younger Children

- Select news stories that are age appropriate. Focus on situations and solutions that young children can understand and act upon, for example handwashing as a way to halt the spread of germs.
- Beginning writers are sounding out words and may use *invented spelling*, which is fine. It demonstrates their ability to phonetically represent words even though they do not yet know the correct spelling. Ask if they would like a scribe to show them the traditional spelling of the word.

For Older Children

- Have children identify issues in the community that might warrant a call to action. These can include littering, recycling, composting, healthy eating, exercise, and so on. Consider what information and images would be effective and where the posters might be placed.
- Help children use measurement when creating the outline. They can decide on the sizes of text and images when planning how to organize the big idea, supporting ideas, and small details.
- Have children use digital communication to work with the teacher or peers to share planning ideas and/or completed posters/signs and to create an online opportunity to respond to each other's work.

