



Educating for Democracy: Helping Students Understand the News Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School Video Reflection Guide

This video introduces how Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School helps students critically examine information from news and media sources. For educators interested in applying lessons learned from the video to their district or school context, this accompanying reflection guide offers questions to consider after watching the video, as well as some additional resources.

Choosing High Quality Professional Development

“And what we did was invite all of their teachers to a summer academy where we had four days of intensive training in our curriculum. We then worked with them over the summer to adapt that curriculum for their own school district. We followed that out with ongoing professional development.” - Howard Schneider, Executive Director, Center for News Literacy, Stony Brook University

- What elements of the Stony Brook professional development make it high quality? Think about some of the best professional development experiences you’ve had – what made them successful? What do you, or your school or district, look for when assessing the quality and fit of a professional development experience for your needs?

District Championship and Community Engagement

“The important thing of any initiative is really the communication. So we talked about the importance of the work, and what the community could expect in the rollout, which included a parent workshop, in partnership with our public library.” – Dr. Mary O’Meara, District Superintendent

- What are some initiatives in your school or district that needed the support of district champions, parents and families, and community partners to succeed? What strategies have you found most effective for building two-way communication among schools, families, and partners?

Student Choice and Cross-Curriculum Application

“So advice I would have for departments looking to add a news literacy course is that you can give your students choice” ...” Because media literacy and news literacy is something that falls into every single category. It doesn't just exist in math or science or social studies or English. There's, there's an article about everything in the world today.” – Sam & Jacob, Grade 12 Students

- How is student choice built into your practice or curriculum? What support might educators need to design lessons and assessments when students are focusing on different topics? Have you experienced or learned about successful collaborations among educators across content areas? What did the collaboration focus on, and what made it successful?

Additional Resources

[Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School](#) - Read Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy’s National Blue Ribbon Schools program application to learn more about how they approach instruction and support for students in all areas.

[National Blue Ribbon Schools: Social Studies/Civic Engagement Practices](#) - Learn more about effective practices related to social studies and civic engagement from other National Blue Ribbon schools.