

THE WEEK

**The Week
at a
Glance**



5	Minnesota police shooting brings new tensions, protests	News	Just 10 miles from the Minneapolis courthouse where police officer Derek Chauvin is being tried for murder, another black man was shot dead in a confrontation with a police officer, leading to new protests, rioting, and looting.	Legal Studies Civics
6	Transgender kids: The GOP's fight to ban medical treatments	News	Arkansas' GOP-held Senate and House overrode Gov. Asa Hutchinson's veto of a bill that bans doctors from treating transgender minors with the hormones, puberty blockers, and surgeries "that so many trans people describe as lifesaving."	Government Civics
7	Washington, D.C. Symbolic date	News	President Biden said that he would withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by Sept. 11—a date past the May 1 deadline the Trump administration negotiated with the Taliban, but still a concrete timetable to end America's longest war.	World Studies Government
11	Changing election laws	News	What do Republicans mean when they say there were 'irregularities' in the 2020 election that need fixing? Who makes election laws, and was there fraud in 2020?	Politics Government Civics
17	Judicial commission: What is Biden's goal?	News	A 36-member bipartisan study group, created via executive order from President Biden, will spend six months examining whether the number of justices should be expanded from nine—as well as whether justices should have term limits rather than lifetime appointments.	Government Legal Studies

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Jacksonville, Fla. Coughing assault PAGE 7	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the article, why was a Florida woman sentenced to 30 days in jail, six months' probation, and anger management classes? 2. Why would coughing on someone evoke a sentence like this? What do you think her intent was? 3. Why do you think the victim in this case was videotaping Ms. Hunter? Should we record incidents like this one? Why or why not? 4. Do you think Ms Hunter's sentence was fair and appropriate? Explain your answer.
'Woke' corporations: Why they've switched sides PAGE 16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would you summarize this article in six words? 2. Why are "loyal Republicans" being asked to essentially boycott Diet Coke, ViacomCBS, Delta Airlines, Citibank, Merck, UPS, and Major League Baseball? 3. What role, if any, do you think companies should play in political discourse in the United States? Should corporations be able to express political opinions? 4. What issue do you feel strongly enough about to boycott a company over it?
Kids' tech: The emotional costs of always being online PAGE 22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do you think this article is about, based on its headline? 2. What did a recent study from the Association of Psychological Science reveal about the link between an increase in suicides among U.S. adolescents and an increase in screen time? What evidence is presented to support this finding? 3. According to the article, what has the response been from tech companies? 4. According to the article, what have been the positive impacts of increased technology during the pandemic? 5. Do you think most teens spend too much time in front of screens? If so, what should be done to reverse the trend? If not, why not?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: The Cover

Invite students to look at this week's cover and answer the questions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the illustration on this week's cover. What story does the image tell? 2. List the symbols in the illustration, and explain what each represents and why each is used. How does the illustrator use specific techniques, like exaggeration, to tell a story? 3. What do you think the illustrator's point of view is on this story, based on the choices in the illustration?
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MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1 : Based on the article, Minnesota police shooting brings new tensions, protests ” (p. 5)	
VOCABULARY	confrontation, rioting, looting, taser, warrant, misdemeanor, scuffle, manslaughter, pepper-sprayed, fatigues, deference, contempt, belligerence, negligent, fraught, citation, jurisdictions, pretextual
DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does the article reveal about how America has dealt with its history of racism? 2. What rights do citizens have when we engage with the police? Do people from different communities have different rights? Why or why not? 3. How can young people help to dismantle or eradicate racism in America?
DO (IN PERSON)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write or read aloud the following speech excerpt, and challenge students to identify what may have prompted the speech, who gave the speech, and when the speech was given: “I think America must see that riots do not develop out of thin air. Certain conditions continue to exist in our society which must be condemned as vigorously as we condemn riots. But in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear?” Ask students to interpret this speech excerpt. What current conditions in our society, if any, need to be condemned? You may want to encourage students to read the article. 2. Explain that the excerpt is from a speech given by Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of his “Two Americas” series of speeches in the late 1960s. The speech was given in response to the frustration at the slow pace of change. Protests that had been non-violent began changing to acts of violence. Invite students to read the full transcript of “The Other America.” Encourage them to underline words or phrases that they do not fully understand and to conduct research and discuss those words or phrases with classmates to help define them. Direct them to circle at least three statements from the speech that they agree with; and at least three that they’d like to learn more about. Finally, challenge them to summarize Dr. King’s message in 1-2 sentences. Ask students how, if at all, Dr. King’s speech is still relevant today. 3. As a class, watch this excerpt from “The Daily Show” about recent events and the “talk” that many black parents must have with their children on how to interact with police. <i>Note: The video addresses sensitive social issues: educators should screen the video prior to the watching. Some students may also have a personal relationship with these topics and their perspectives and sensitivities should be considered during the discussion.</i> Invite students to jot down their thoughts, feelings, and questions after watching the video. Allow student volunteers to share thoughts, feelings, and/or questions with a partner or small group. Again, challenge them to summarize Trevor Noah’s message in 1-2 sentences. 4. Challenge students to compare “The Other America” and this excerpt from “The Daily Show.” What is the call to action for each speech? How are their messages similar? Different? What connections can be drawn between the two speeches given 60 years apart?
EXTEND	Students are educating themselves and using social media, photos and images, songs, poetry and other creative outlets to express themselves in response to social issues. Encourage students to use a creative outlet to express their feelings and opinions and/or what they believe needs to change to create more equity and eradicate racism once and for all.

MAIN FEATURE OF THE WEEK #2: Based on the article, “Changing election laws” (p. 11)	
VOCABULARY	irregularities, marred, fraud, mainstream, procedural, enacted, sweeping, intense, impersonating, cited, rollbacks, integrity, railed, wrestle, intervene, curtail, ban, institute
DISCUSS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the benefits and drawbacks of having state-run elections where each state can make its own rules? 2. What problems, if any, do you think that Covid-19 presented for states holding elections?
DO (IN PERSON OR REMOTE)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draw a continuum on the board or on an online slide that says, easy/easier on one end and hard/harder on the other. Read these prompts, and direct students to stand or put a dot at the point in the continuum between easy/easier and hard/harder that reflects their perspective: To my knowledge, voting in my state is _____ (easy/hard). I think the voting process should be (easier/harder) than it is. Give students an opportunity to explain their answers. 2. Ask students what they know about options their state offered for casting ballots in the 2020 election -- in person or by mail. You may need to explain that these voting laws are made at the state level. Invite students to research their state’s voting laws from the 2020 election here and here and to note how their state compares to at least three other states. 3. Ask students what they know about the debate around “voting irregularities” in the 2020 election. Invite students to read the article and highlight information or quotes that support the concept that there were irregularities in one color and information or quotes that oppose that concept in another. Challenge students to identify and list the voting laws and methods that were either passed prior to the 2020 election or are being proposed as a result of it. These include expanding mail-in balloting; expanding early voting; mailing all registered voters absentee ballots regardless of whether they requested them; adding drop-in boxes for absentee ballots; transferring authority over elections from county boards to an appointee of the legislature; curtailing early and absentee voting; instituting stronger ID requirements; and banning drop boxes. 4. Challenge students to select and research one of the methods or proposed bills. Their research should include a description, an explanation of possible benefits and possible downsides, and how, if at all, it could impact elections. 5. Invite students who researched similar bills to present their research to one another and to determine whether they think each one makes it easier or harder to vote. Challenge students to identify, explain, and defend one voting method from the 2020 election they would most want to keep or change.
EXTEND	Invite students to learn more about Georgia’s new voting laws and read and annotate the article on p. 16 to learn why companies like Coca Cola, Delta Airlines, and Major League Baseball are speaking out and/or taking action against it.

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