

Social Studies – Current Events

As you watch or read:

1. How can you express the **Big Idea** in 1-5 words? Often the headline, the first paragraph (“the lede”), or the newscaster’s introduction will help you with this.
2. What are the **Important Details**? What are the things you need to know about this topic and what is currently happening in order to have a full understanding of it? You may need to reread or stop and pause in order to have time to think about this and write these things down. You don’t need *every* detail; you’ll need to use your Critical Thinking skills to determine which details are essential. If you were to explain this topic to somebody else, what details *must* you include in order for them to understand it?
3. How is this information related to the **rise or fall** of our global civilization? It can be both. Or you may have a very strong opinion about it being one or the other. Or it may depend on perspective. This is where your Critical Thinking skills will come into play, and where conversation with your classmates, friends, and family will be helpful. Try to step back and look at the big picture: in the story of human civilization on Earth, viewed 100 years from now, what might the effect of this particular event or idea be?
4. What is **your opinion** about this event or this information? If there are two sides to the issue, what side do you support? Why? What evidence are you basing your opinion on? If you do not yet have an opinion, what do you need in order to form one? More information (what information, exactly)? A more balanced view on the issue?
5. What **questions** does this event or information raise for you? What don’t you understand? What do you want to know more about? What are the “why” and “how” behind the event or issue – do you understand those aspects fully?