

Modern Problems Unit Curriculum Guide

Alignment to NE History Standards (2019)

Pacing/Unit Guide

<p><u>A.I.</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Your Digital Mind</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Opioid</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>
<p><u>Age of Outrage/Politically Correct</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Homelessness in America</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>U.S. Prison System</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>
<p><u>Vaping</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Anxiety in Youth</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Abortion</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>
<p><u>Human Trafficking</u> <u>Unit:</u></p>	<p><u>Videos:</u> LINKS TO VIDEO PAGES</p>	<p><u>Extra Resources:</u></p>

Unit 1: Artificial Intelligence

Pacing: 4 Weeks


Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- How should AI be regulated, and by whom (federal / state / local)? - What are the social, economic, and ethical consequences of advanced AI? - How does AI challenge traditional conceptions of work, privacy, and responsibility?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
SS HS.1.2.d "Investigate an issue and communicate which level of government is most appropriate to utilize in addressing the issue."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze how historical patterns of technological innovation have transformed economic systems, labor markets, and civic life in the United States.
SUPPLEMENTARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate the ethical, economic, and social implications of artificial intelligence on human decision-making and privacy.
SS HS.1.1 (structure/functions of government) <i>History</i> : the historical role of technological change, continuity & change over time (e.g., how prior tech revolutions altered society) <i>Economics</i> : market impacts, labor displacement <i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.2.e / SS HS.1.2.f (media, oversight)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess the appropriate role of federal, state, and local governments in regulating emerging technologies.

SS HS.1.1.a, SS HS.4.1.c, SS HS.4.2.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Critique arguments surrounding automation and its potential impact on workforce displacement and inequality.
HS Economics Standard: “Markets” – e.g. 12.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a comprehensive policy proposal that balances technological advancement with ethical responsibility and public welfare.

<p>Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Artificial Intelligence / AI Ethics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>We need a new ethics for a world of AI agents</i> – Nature (explores how AI agents challenge existing ethical frameworks). 2. <i>Ethical Issues of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Healthcare</i> – PMC/NCBI (focus on privacy, bias, consent in AI health) PMC 3. <i>From Principles to Practice: A Deep Dive into AI Ethics and Regulations</i> – arXiv preprint (regulations, principles, challenges) arXiv 4. <i>The ethical dilemmas of AI</i> – USC Annenberg (public-facing article summarizing key AI ethical issues) USC Annenberg 5. <i>Ethics in AI: Why It Matters</i> – Harvard DCE blog (privacy, bias, transparency in AI systems) Harvard DCE
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6. *AI Ethics in Higher Education: How Schools Are Proceeding*— EdTech Magazine (how institutions address AI ethics) [EdTech Magazine](#)
7. *Navigating the Ethical Dilemmas of AI*— Baylor University (interview and framework discussion) news.web.baylor.edu
8. *The ethical costs of advances in AI*— ASU News (ethical trade-offs in AI deployment) [ASU News](#)
9. *Delegating Responsibilities to Intelligent Autonomous Systems: Challenges and Benefits*— arXiv (autonomous systems and moral responsibility) [arXiv](#)
10. *Towards an Environmental Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*— arXiv (considering ecological costs of AI) [arXiv](#)

Academic Vocabulary

Artificial Intelligence

Term	Definition
Algorithm	A step-by-step set of rules or calculations that a computer follows to solve a problem or make decisions.
Automation	The use of machines or technology to perform tasks previously done by humans, often to increase speed or reduce cost.

Machine Learning	A type of artificial intelligence that allows computers to learn from data and improve performance without being explicitly programmed.
Neural Network	A computer system modeled after the human brain that processes information through layers of interconnected "neurons."
Data Privacy	The right to control how personal information is collected, used, and shared by organizations and governments.
Surveillance Capitalism	An economic system in which companies profit from collecting and analyzing personal data for targeted advertising or control.
Ethical AI	The study and practice of ensuring that artificial intelligence systems operate fairly, transparently, and without harm.
Technological Singularity	The hypothetical point at which artificial intelligence surpasses human intelligence, changing civilization irreversibly.
Digital Bias	Systematic unfairness is built into algorithms or data that leads to unequal

	<p>outcomes among social groups.</p> <p>Regulation / Oversight Laws, policies, or agencies that monitor and control how new technologies are developed and used.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
Connection to School Improvement Goal	<p>This unit enhances literacy by requiring students to read complex informational texts on emerging technologies and ethical debates, then synthesize evidence into written arguments about the role of AI in society.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns ● Schoology Discussion Board Posts ● Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Artificial Intelligence Paper

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 2: Your Digital Mind

Pacing: 4 Weeks


Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- How does social media shape identity, influence, and democracy? - What responsibilities do platforms have for content? - How do we detect misinformation and bias in digital

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
SS HS.1.2.f "Analyze various media sources for accuracy and perspective."	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Examine how digital platforms shape public discourse, political polarization, and the spread of misinformation.
SUPPLEMENTARY	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evaluate the influence of social media on identity formation, civic participation, and mental health.
SS HS.1.2.e (how media, individuals, groups check government) <i>Civics</i> :SS HS.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Compare historical shifts in communication technology and their effects

(understanding government) <i>History</i> : continuity/change in communication technologies <i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.2.d (deciding appropriate level of government intervention)	on democracy and public opinion.
SS HS.1.2.e, SS HS.1.1.c, SS HS.4.2.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess government and corporate responsibilities regarding data privacy, free speech, and information integrity.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construct evidence-based recommendations for promoting digital literacy and responsible media consumption.

<p>Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Your Digital Mind / Social Media & Mental Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Teens, Social Media and Mental Health</i>— Pew Research Center (survey data on youth and social media) Pew Research Center 2. <i>Excessive social media use found to harm teenagers' mental health</i>— The Guardian (recent survey findings). The Guardian. 3. <i>Yes, Social Media Might Be Making Kids Depressed</i>— UCSF (longitudinal study on preteens) Home. 4. <i>Social Media and Mental Health in Children and Teens</i>— Johns Hopkins / McLean (overview of evidence) McLean Hospital 5. <i>Addictive Use of Social Media, Not Total Time, Associated with Youth Mental Health</i>— Columbia / Weill Cornell (study on behavioral use vs time) Columbia Medical Center
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6. *Social Media Addiction and Mental Health: The Growing Concern for Youth Well-Being*— Stanford Law / Stanford researchers (review article) [Stanford Law School](#)
7. *Social Media and Youth Mental Health* | HHS / Surgeon General (advisory, data, guidance) [HHS.gov](#)
8. *Teens are more acutely aware of social media's impact on mental health*— K12 Dive (recent perceptions of teens) [K-12 Dive](#).
9. *Social media may heighten depression severity in youth*— UTSW news (clinical population findings) [UT Southwestern](#).
10. *Teens With Mental Health Conditions Use Social Media Differently*— Neuroscience News (differences by diagnosis) [Neuroscience News.s](#)

Academic Vocabulary

 **Your Digital Mind (Social Media & Technology)**

Term	Definition
Digital Footprint	The record of all online actions, posts, and data a person leaves behind on the internet.

	Algorithmic Feed	The personalized stream of content on social media platforms is determined by algorithms based on user behavior.
	Echo Chamber	An online environment where users are exposed only to information or opinions that reinforce their existing beliefs.
	Misinformation	False or inaccurate information that is spread unintentionally.
	Disinformation	False information that is deliberately created or shared to mislead others.
	Cyberbullying	The use of digital communication to harass, threaten, or humiliate another person.
	Digital Literacy	The ability to effectively find, evaluate, create, and communicate information using digital technology.
	Screen Time	The amount of time spent using devices such as phones, computers, or televisions.
	Online Persona	The identity or image a person presents to others on digital platforms may differ

	<p>from their real-life self.</p> <p>Freedom of Expression The right to communicate ideas and opinions without government interference, protected by the First Amendment.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
Connection to School Improvement Goal	<p>Students analyze informational and persuasive media, evaluate bias, and craft written reflections and position essays, strengthening both critical reading and expository writing skills related to digital literacy.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns ● Schoology Discussion Board Posts ● Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Your Digital Mind Paper

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 3: Opioid Epidemic

Pacing: 4 Weeks

<p style="text-align: center;">Overview</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the opioid crisis arise, and what roles did pharmaceutical firms, doctors, and governments play? - What are the ethical tensions between regulation, individual rights, and public health? - Which policy responses are most effective (prevention, treatment, enforcement)?
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NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<p><i>History / Social Policy & Reform</i> (within HS History standards) – analyzing the causes, consequences, and policy responses to drug epidemics (e.g., past public health crises)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trace the historical development of the opioid epidemic and identify key policy, corporate, and societal contributors.
<p>Supplementary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the effectiveness of federal and state interventions in addressing addiction and public health emergencies.
<p>SS HS.1.2.d (policy & government level) <i>Civics</i>: SS HS.1.2.e/f (role of public institutions, media, interest groups) <i>Economics</i>: cost, supply/demand, externalities <i>History</i>: comparing with historical epidemics (e.g, 1918 flu, “crack” era)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare governmental and community responses to the opioid crisis with past public health movements.
<p>SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.3.3.c, SS HS.4.1.b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret quantitative and qualitative data to assess the crisis’s impact on U.S. demographics and healthcare systems.
<p>HS Economics Standard: “Markets” – e.g. 12.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesize evidence from multiple perspectives to propose

comprehensive strategies for prevention, recovery, and accountability.

Instructional Resources & Activities

Opioids in America

1. *The Opioid Epidemic – CDC* (overview & data)
2. *How the Opioid Epidemic Became America's Deadliest Drug Crisis* – The Atlantic
3. *Overdose Deaths in the U.S. Continue to Rise* – NIDA (National Institute on Drug Abuse)
4. *Pharmaceutical Companies and the Opioid Crisis* – ProPublica
5. *Harm Reduction Strategies for Opioid Use* – NIH / NIDA
6. *State vs Federal Approaches to Opioid Regulation* – Health Affairs
7. *The Role of Pain Management Practices in the Opioid Crisis* – JAMA
8. *Addiction Treatment Access in Rural America* – Kaiser Health News
9. *Court Rulings & Litigation Against Opioid Manufacturers* – The New York Times
10. *Global Comparisons: Opioid Policy in Canada, Australia, Europe* – The Lancet



Academic Vocabulary

 **The Opioid Crisis in America**

Term	Definition
Addiction	A chronic disorder characterized by compulsive drug use despite harmful consequences.
Prescription Drug Abuse	The misuse of medication is originally intended for medical treatment.
Overdose Epidemic	The widespread rise in deaths caused by consuming toxic or excessive amounts of drugs.
Synthetic Opioids	Man-made substances such as fentanyl mimic the effects of natural opiates but are often stronger and more dangerous.
Big Pharma	A term used to describe large pharmaceutical companies and their influence over healthcare and policy.
Public Health Emergency	A situation that threatens widespread harm to human health and requires immediate government response.
Rehabilitation	A treatment process that helps individuals recover from addiction and return to healthy functioning.

	<p>Harm Reduction Strategies that aim to minimize the negative effects of drug use rather than simply punish it.</p> <p>Criminalization vs. Treatment The debate over whether drug use should be handled as a legal crime or a public health issue.</p> <p>Class Action Lawsuit A legal case in which a group of people collectively sues an organization for wrongdoing or harm.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
<p>Connection to School Improvement Goal</p>	<p>Through analyzing investigative journalism, policy reports, and data-driven studies, students practice close reading of nonfiction texts and compose analytical responses and policy proposals that develop academic writing fluency.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns ● Schoology Discussion Board Posts ● Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unguarded Documentary Reaction ● Opioid Paper

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 4: Age of Outrage/Politically Correct

Pacing: 4 Weeks

Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- What counts as civil discourse vs harm? - How do social norms evolve, and who leads or resists change? - What tensions exist between free speech, respect, and social justice?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<i>History / Social & Cultural Change</i> – evaluating how norms around speech, dissent, and cultural norms shift over time (continuity & change)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze how social movements and media have shaped evolving norms of political correctness and public discourse.
Supplemental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate constitutional limits and protections surrounding freedom of expression in the context of modern cultural debates.
<i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.2./ 1.2.d (public discourse, civic engagement) <i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.1 (foundations of rights: First Amendment) <i>History</i> : multiple perspectives and	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Investigate historical and contemporary examples of social backlash to cultural change and activism.

counter-movements <i>Civic Participation</i> : how citizens respond to perceived injustice	
SS HS.4.2.a, SS HS.1.1.c, SS HS.4.3.a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess the tension between individual liberty and collective responsibility in shaping civic dialogue.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construct a defensible argument regarding the role of tolerance, respect, and dissent in a pluralistic democracy.

<p>Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Age of Outrage / Political Correctness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Cancel Culture Is Overrated</i> – The Atlantic 2. <i>The Free Speech Debate in Colleges</i> – Chronicle of Higher Education 3. <i>How Trigger Warnings Came to Campus</i> – The New Yorker 4. <i>Why “No Platforming” Is Divisive</i> – The Guardian 5. <i>The Role of Social Media in Amplifying Outrage</i> – Wired 6. <i>Identity Politics and Its Critics</i> – New York Times Opinion 7. <i>Microaggressions: Definition and Debates</i> – Psychology Today
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- 8. *MeToo Movement: 10 Years Later*— Time Magazine
- 9. *Cultural Appropriation in Contemporary Discourse*— Vox
- 10. *Balancing Free Speech and Harassment Policy*— Harvard's Berkman Klein Center

 **Age of Outrage / Political Correctness**

Academic Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Cancel Culture	The practice of withdrawing support from public figures or organizations after they have said or done something objectionable.
Trigger Warning	A statement that alerts audiences to potentially distressing content.
Cultural Appropriation	The adoption of elements from one culture by members of another, often without understanding or respect.
Identity Politics	Political positions are based on the interests or perspectives of social groups

	<p>with which people identify.</p> <p>No Platforming The act of denying individuals or groups the opportunity to express their views publicly, often to prevent harm or hate speech.</p> <p>Freedom of Speech The constitutional right to express opinions without government restriction.</p> <p>Hate Speech An expression that attacks or demeans a person or group based on race, religion, gender, or other identity factors.</p> <p>Microaggression A subtle or indirect comment or action that conveys prejudice or discrimination.</p> <p>The “Me Too” Movement A social movement against sexual harassment and assault that empowers survivors to share their experiences.</p> <p>Social Activism Efforts to promote or resist social, political, or environmental change.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
Connection to School Improvement Goal	Students read opinion pieces and historical texts to evaluate competing viewpoints on free speech and activism, then construct argumentative essays that use textual evidence and counterclaims to support their conclusions.

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell Ringers • Exit Tickets • Actively Learns • Schoology Discussion Board Posts • Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age of Outrage Paper

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 5: Homelessness in America


Pacing: 3 Weeks

Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

What structural causes drive homelessness (poverty, mental health, housing markets)? - How can public policy better balance compassion, effectiveness, and cost? - What is the role of community, nonprofits, and government in addressing homelessness?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<i>History / Causes & Consequences / Social Welfare History</i> — analyzing how policy, economy, and demographics produce homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Investigate the historical causes and structural factors contributing to homelessness in the United States.
Supplemental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate the relationships among housing policy, poverty, employment, and mental health.
<i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.2.d (government level & policy decisions) <i>Economics</i> : housing markets, inequality, supply and demand <i>Geography</i> : urbanization, migration, regional differences <i>Civics</i> : civic participation in community solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare local, state, and federal strategies designed to address homelessness and assess their outcomes.
SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.3.3.c, SS HS.2.2.a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze the intersection of economic inequality and urban development in shaping patterns of displacement.
HS Economics Standard: “Markets” – e.g. 12.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop evidence-based policy recommendations for addressing homelessness through prevention and rehabilitation.

<p>Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Homelessness in America</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The State of Homelessness in America</i>— National Alliance to End Homelessness 2. <i>Housing First: The Evidence Behind It</i>— U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
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3. *How Gentrification Displaces Communities* – Brookings Institution
4. *Mental Illness, Addiction, and Homelessness* – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
5. *The Cost of Homelessness to Public Systems* – Urban Institute
6. *Policy Innovations in Homelessness: Examples from Cities* – CityLab
7. *Impact of COVID-19 on Homeless Populations* – Journal articles (e.g., The Lancet)
8. *Rural Homelessness & Invisible Homeless People* – Huffington Post / ProPublica
9. *Tiny Home Villages & Alternative Housing Models* – Yes! Magazine
10. *Homelessness Among Veterans & Special Populations* – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Academic Vocabulary

 **Homelessness in America**

Term

Definition

	Affordable Housing	Housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's income, ensuring access for low-income individuals.
	Poverty Cycle	The pattern is where poor individuals or families remain in poverty across generations due to systemic barriers.
	Shelter System	Emergency housing programs that provide temporary residence for homeless individuals.
	Mental Health Services	Counseling and medical care aimed at improving psychological well-being.
	Urbanization	The increase in population and development in cities can affect housing availability and cost.
	Economic Inequality	The uneven distribution of income and wealth within a society.
	Housing First Model	A policy approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing before addressing other issues like employment or addiction.

	<p>Public Assistance Government programs that provide financial or social support to low-income citizens.</p> <p>Gentrification The process by which urban neighborhoods are renovated often displaces long-term, low-income residents.</p> <p>Structural Unemployment Joblessness is caused by changes in the economy that make certain skills obsolete.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
<p>Connection to School Improvement Goal</p>	<p>This unit builds reading comprehension through analysis of sociological studies and first-hand narratives, while developing persuasive writing as students compose evidence-based proposals for addressing homelessness.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Homelessness: The Project (Infographic)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schoology Discussion Board Posts● Schoology Assignments | |
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Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 6: U.S. Prison System

Pacing: 4 Weeks

Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- *How and why has the U.S. prison system expanded? - What are the consequences (racial disparities, recidivism, costs)? - What reforms (sentencing, alternative justice, rehabilitation) make sense?*

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<p><i>History / Social Policy & Reform</i>— tracing incarceration history, reform movements, and consequences over time</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the historical evolution of the U.S. criminal justice system and the expansion of incarceration practices.
<p>Supplemental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the influence of Supreme Court rulings and legislative policies on the rights of the accused.
<p><i>Civics</i>: SS HS.1.2.d (policy & level of government) <i>Civics</i>: rights of the accused, due process, sentencing law <i>Economics</i>: costs, private prisons, labor <i>History</i>: comparative prisons over eras, penal philosophy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze data on incarceration rates, racial disparities, and recidivism to determine systemic patterns.
<p>SS HS.1.1.c, SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.4.1.a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess competing philosophies of punishment and rehabilitation in shaping criminal justice reform.

HS Economics Standard: "Markets" – e.g. 12.2.1

- Formulate proposals for criminal justice reform that promote equity, efficiency, and constitutional integrity.

Instructional Resources &
Activities

 **The U.S. Prison System**

1. *The Growth of Mass Incarceration in the U.S.* – Brennan Center for Justice
2. *Race and Incarceration: Disparities in Prison Rates* – Prison Policy Initiative
3. *The Cost of Incarceration in America* – Vera Institute
4. *American Prisons and Solitary Confinement* – ACLU
5. *Restorative Justice Models: Theory and Practice* – Harvard Law Review
6. *Private Prisons and Profit Motives* – The Marshall Project
7. *Recidivism Rates & Rehabilitation Programs* – National Institute of Justice
8. *Women in Prison & Gendered Justice* – The Sentencing Project
9. *Juvenile Justice in America* – Urban Institute

10. *Criminal Justice Reform Legislation Trends*— Brookings Institution

 **The U.S. Prison System**

Academic Vocabulary

Term

Definition

Mass Incarceration

The large-scale imprisonment of people, often tied to strict sentencing laws and racial disparities.

Recidivism

The tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend after release.

Mandatory Minimums

Laws that require fixed prison terms for specific crimes regardless of circumstances.

Prison Industrial Complex

The overlap between government and private interests that benefit from expanding prisons.

	<p>Rehabilitation Efforts to help offenders reintegrate into society through education, therapy, or training.</p> <p>Restorative Justice An approach to justice that focuses on repairing harm through reconciliation between offenders and victims.</p> <p>Solitary Confinement The isolation of prisoners as a form of punishment, often linked to mental health issues.</p> <p>Criminal Justice Reform Efforts to change policies and practices within policing, sentencing, and corrections.</p> <p>Three-Strikes Law Legislation that mandates severe penalties for repeat offenders.</p> <p>Felon Disenfranchisement The loss of voting rights due to a felony conviction.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Computers● Schoology● Notebook● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)

Connection to School Improvement Goal	Students engage in deep reading of primary and secondary sources on justice reform, synthesizing information into research-based essays that refine thesis development, organization, and citation skills.
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Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns ● Schoology Discussion Board Posts ● Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Letter to Senator: U.S. Prison System

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 7: Vaping

Pacing: 4 Weeks

Overview


(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

How does vaping reflect continuities/changes from tobacco regulation? - What is the balance between personal freedom, public health, and regulation? - What policies or education strategies are promising?

NE Standard

Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets

<p><i>History / Public Health Regulatory History</i>— situate vaping within the arc of tobacco regulation, health policy, and public awareness</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trace the evolution of tobacco regulation and its relationship to the rise of vaping culture.
<p style="text-align: center;">Supplemental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate how corporate influence, government oversight, and consumer behavior intersect in shaping public health outcomes.
<p><i>Civics</i>: SS HS.1.2.d (which level regulates vaping) <i>Civics</i>: regulatory agencies (FDA, states) <i>Economics</i>: industry, externalities, addiction <i>History</i>: lessons from past tobacco eras</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Compare the effectiveness of public health campaigns addressing tobacco and vaping across different eras.
<p>SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.3.3.a, SS HS.4.1.b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze how youth-targeted marketing and social norms contribute to emerging health risks.
<p>HS Economics Standard: “Markets” — e.g. 12.2.1 PE.HS.5.2.d (Strength & Conditioning strand)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop a research-informed public health initiative aimed at reducing vaping prevalence among adolescents.

<p style="text-align: center;">Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Vaping & Public Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Social Media and Youth Vaping Trends</i>— CDC / Surgeon General’s reports 2. <i>EVALI and Vaping-Related Lung Injury</i>— New England Journal of Medicine 3. <i>FDA’s Regulation of E-Cigarettes</i>— U.S. Food and Drug Administration
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4. *The Rise of Juul & Youth Marketing*— The Guardian / New York Times investigations
5. *Vaping as a Gateway vs Harm Reduction Debate*— Tobacco Control journal
6. *Impact of Flavor Bans on Vape Use*— Health Affairs
7. *Youth Perceptions of Vaping Risks*— Journal of Adolescent Health
8. *International Policies on Vaping (UK, EU, Australia)*— BMJ
9. *Vaping & Mental Health: Associations Study*— JAMA or similar
10. *Public Health Campaigns Against Vaping*— American Lung Association

Academic Vocabulary

 **Vaping and Public Health**

Term	Definition
Nicotine Addiction	Dependence on nicotine, a chemical that stimulates the brain and creates craving.
E-Cigarettes	Battery-powered devices that vaporize liquid nicotine for inhalation.

Lung Injury (EVALI)	A respiratory condition linked to vaping products, causing lung damage or failure.
FDA Regulation	Oversight by the Food and Drug Administration to ensure safety and accuracy in marketed health products.
Tobacco 21 Law	Legislation raising the minimum age for tobacco and vape purchases to 21.
Marketing Restrictions	Laws limiting how companies can advertise products that pose health risks.
Peer Influence	The effect that friends or social groups have on individual behavior and choices.
Health Campaign	Public education efforts aimed at encouraging healthy behaviors and reducing risk.
Gateway Drug	A substance that may lead users to experiment with more dangerous drugs.
Public Health Policy	Government actions are designed to protect and improve the health of citizens.

Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
Connection to School Improvement Goal	By evaluating health research, government reports, and media campaigns, students practice reading technical texts and produce written arguments and informational pieces designed to inform or persuade specific audiences.

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns ● Schoology Discussion Board Posts ● Schoology Assignments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anti-Vaping Video

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 8: Anxiety in Youth Pacing: 4 Weeks	
Overview (Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What forces have led to increases in youth anxiety? - How should schools, families, and policy respond? - What equity issues (access to care, stigma) must we confront?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<p><i>History / Social & Cultural Change</i> – examining how modern pressures (technology, social norms, performance culture) shaped rising mental health concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify sociocultural, technological, and economic factors contributing to the rise of anxiety among youth populations.
<p style="text-align: center;">Supplemental</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluate historical shifts in public attitudes and policy responses toward mental health.
<p><i>Civics</i>: public policy & education policy for mental health, <i>Economics</i>: cost and access to care, <i>History</i>: historical attitudes toward mental health, <i>Civics</i>: role of advocacy, NGOs, school districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze educational, familial, and governmental roles in promoting mental health awareness and accessibility.
<p>SS HS.1.2.e, SS HS.4.3.a, SS HS.3.3.c PE.HS.14.2.j PE.HS.5.3.c HE.7.2.2.b</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpret data on mental health trends to identify inequities in access and treatment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design strategic recommendations for institutional and community-level mental health interventions.

Instructional Resources & Activities

Anxiety in Youth / Mental Health

1. *New Poll: 94% of Gen Z Youth Report Experiencing Regular Mental Health Challenges*— Blue Shield / Children Now survey report [Blue Shield of California | News Center](#)
2. *World Health Organization: Teens, Screens and Mental Health*— WHO report [World Health Organization](#)
3. *Social media hurts teens with anxiety and depression more than healthy peers*— News-Medical (shares UK study) [News-Medical](#).
4. *Teens With Mental Health Conditions Use Social Media Differently*— Neuroscience News (comparative report) [Neuroscience News](#).
5. *Addictive Use of Social Media, Not Total Time, Associated with Youth Mental Health*— Columbia / Weill Cornell (detailed study) [Columbia Medical Center](#)
6. *Social Media Addiction and Mental Health: The Growing Concern*— Stanford summary article, [Stanford Law School](#)
7. *Social Media and Youth Mental Health | HHS / Surgeon General (policy & guidelines)* [HHS.gov](#)
8. *Social Media May Heighten Depression Severity in Youth*— UTSW study report [UT Southwestern.n](#)
9. *The Impact of Social Media on Youth Mental Health: Risks, Benefits, Approaches*— Behavioral Health News (overview) [Behavioral Health News](#)

10. *Teens, Social Media and Mental Health* – Pew Research Center (survey data) [Pew Research Center](#)

 **Anxiety in Youth**

Term

Definition

Mental Health Stigma Negative stereotypes or discrimination against people with mental health conditions.

Anxiety Disorder A medical condition marked by excessive fear, worry, or nervousness.

Coping Mechanism A strategy used to manage stress, emotions, or difficult situations.

Mindfulness The practice of being aware of the present moment without judgment.

Burnout Emotional exhaustion and reduced motivation are often caused by chronic stress.

Academic Vocabulary

	<p>Resilience The ability to recover quickly from difficulties or setbacks.</p> <p>Social Comparison The act of evaluating one’s own life based on others’ achievements or appearances, often through social media.</p> <p>Performance Pressure Stress that results from expectations to achieve high academic, athletic, or social standards.</p> <p>Access to Care The availability of affordable and effective mental health services.</p> <p>Emotional Regulation The process of managing and responding appropriately to emotional experiences.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
<p>Connection to School Improvement Goal</p>	<p>Students read case studies, surveys, and reflective essays to interpret data and human experience, then write analytical and narrative responses that strengthen clarity, empathy, and evidence-based reasoning in writing.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Bell Ringers● Exit Tickets● Actively Learns● Schoology Discussion Board Posts● Schoology Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Anxiety: Letter to Self

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 9: Abortion

Pacing: 4 Weeks

Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- How have abortion rights and laws evolved in U.S. history? - What are arguments grounded in rights, public health, and social justice? - How do states balance legal and moral/democratic tensions?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<i>History / Rights & Social Policy</i> — tracing the shifting legal, political, and social landscape (Roe, Dobbs, state laws)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trace the evolution of abortion laws and reproductive rights through key judicial and legislative milestones.
Supplemental	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate how principles of federalism and judicial review shape abortion policy across states.
<i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.1 (rights, constitutional interpretation) <i>Civics</i> : SS HS.1.2.d (which government level regulates abortion) <i>Civics</i> : role of Supreme Court, democracy <i>History</i> : social movements, incremental change	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare ethical, religious, and political frameworks influencing reproductive rights debates.
SS HS.4.2.b, SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.4.3.b	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analyze the impact of landmark Supreme Court decisions (Roe, Casey,

	Dobbs) on American society and governance.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct an evidence-based policy or position paper addressing reproductive rights through a constitutional and ethical lens.

<p>Instructional Resources & Activities</p>	<p> Abortion & Reproductive Rights</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>“Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization” and Its Aftermath</i> – Supreme Court analysis 2. <i>State Abortion Laws Tracker</i> – Guttmacher Institute 3. <i>How Roe’s Overturn Affects Clinics & Patients</i> – The New York Times / Washington Post 4. <i>Public Opinion on Abortion Over Time</i> – Pew Research Center 5. <i>Arguments & Ethics Around Reproductive Autonomy</i> – The Atlantic / The New Yorker 6. <i>Access to Contraception and Policy Barriers</i> – Guttmacher Institute 7. <i>Abortion, Health Outcomes, and Socioeconomic Impact</i> – Journal of Public Health & Medicine 8. <i>International Models of Abortion Regulation</i> – The Lancet or BMJ 9. <i>Litigation & Legal Strategy After Dobbs</i> – Yale Law Journal
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10. *Abortion Rights & Movement Organizing*— Reproductive Rights NGOs & commentary

 **Abortion and Reproductive Rights**

Academic Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Roe v. Wade	The 1973 Supreme Court case that established the constitutional right to abortion (later overturned in 2022).
Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health	The 2022 Supreme Court decision returned abortion regulation to the states.
Pro-Life / Pro-Choice	Opposing viewpoints regarding the morality and legality of abortion.
Reproductive Autonomy	The right of individuals to make decisions about their reproductive health without external interference.
Viability	The stage in pregnancy when a fetus can survive outside the womb, used as

	<p>a legal benchmark.</p> <p>Federalism The division of powers between national and state governments.</p> <p>Judicial Precedent The principle that court decisions serve as authority for future cases with similar issues.</p> <p>Bodily Integrity The principle that individuals have the right to control their own bodies.</p> <p>Privacy Rights The constitutional protections that limit government intrusion into personal decisions.</p> <p>Contraception Access The ability to obtain birth control methods and information safely and affordably.</p>
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Computers● Schoology● Notebook● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)

Connection to School Improvement Goal

This unit deepens literacy through close reading of landmark Supreme Court opinions and scholarly articles, guiding students to compose formal position papers that incorporate constitutional reasoning and structured argumentation.

Formative Assessment

- Bell Ringers
- Exit Tickets
- Actively Learns
- Schoology Discussion Board Posts
- Schoology Assignments

Summative Assessment

- Abortion Paper

Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

Unit 10: Human Trafficking


Pacing: 3 Weeks

Overview

(Essential Questions, Engaging Scenario, Anchor Phenomena)

- What structural factors contribute to human trafficking (poverty, migration, law enforcement gaps)? - How do governments, NGOs, and individuals best respond? - What ethical, legal, and rights considerations are central?

NE Standard	Student Learning Outcomes/Learning Targets
<i>History / Human Rights & Reform</i> — situating trafficking in the broader history of migration, exploitation, and international law	Define and distinguish forms of human trafficking within domestic and global contexts.
Supplemental	Analyze historical continuities between slavery, labor exploitation, and modern trafficking systems.
<i>Civics</i> : government roles (local, national, international) in preventing trafficking, <i>Geography</i> : migration routes, border dynamics, <i>Economics</i> : supply/demand, labor exploitation, <i>Civics</i> : treaties, law enforcement, NGOs	Evaluate how geography, economics, and legal frameworks intersect to perpetuate trafficking networks.
SS HS.1.2.d, SS HS.2.3.a, SS HS.4.3.a	Assess the effectiveness of national and international efforts to combat human trafficking.
	Propose comprehensive, multi-level strategies to prevent trafficking and protect vulnerable populations.

Instructional Resources & Activities	 Human Trafficking <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="556 1312 1486 1341">1. <i>Global Report on Trafficking in Persons (UNODC)</i>— UN Office on Drugs and Crime <li data-bbox="556 1409 1566 1438">2. <i>U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Reports</i>— U.S. Government annual reports
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3. *How Supply Chains Hide Forced Labor* – The Guardian / NYT exposés
4. *Trafficking and Migration: Complex Relationships* – International Migration Review
5. *Survivor Voices: Testimony & Narratives* – Polaris Project or NGOs
6. *Law Enforcement & Technology in Combating Trafficking* – Brookings Institution
7. *NGO Strategies for Prevention & Rescue* – Global NGOs like Anti-Slavery International
8. *Economic Vulnerability & Trafficking Risk* – World Bank articles
9. *Trafficking Trends During COVID and Beyond* – Journal articles
10. *Human Rights Frameworks & Anti-Trafficking Law* – Human Rights Watch / Amnesty International

Academic Vocabulary



Human Trafficking

Term

Definition

	Exploitation	The act of using someone unfairly for personal or financial gain.
	Forced Labor	Work performed under threat, coercion, or without consent.
	Sexual Slavery	The trafficking of individuals for sexual exploitation.
	Coercion	The use of force, threats, or manipulation to control another person's behavior.
	Vulnerable Populations	Groups are more likely to be targeted due to poverty, migration, or instability.
	Supply Chain Ethics	The examination of labor practices behind consumer goods to ensure they are free from exploitation.
	Smuggling vs. Trafficking	Smuggling involves consensual illegal transport across borders; trafficking involves coercion or deception for exploitation.

	<p>Human Rights Violation Any action that infringes upon the basic rights and dignity guaranteed to all people.</p> <p>Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) A nonprofit group that works independently of governments to address social or humanitarian issues.</p> <p>Survivor Advocacy Support and legal protection efforts aimed at empowering victims of trafficking to rebuild their lives.</p>
<p>Materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Computers ● Schoology ● Notebook ● Writing Utencil (Pencil, Pen, Highlighter)
<p>Connection to School Improvement Goal</p>	<p>Students analyze reports, survivor narratives, and human rights documents, improving informational reading comprehension and producing analytical essays that integrate factual evidence with moral and civic reasoning.</p>

Formative Assessment	Summative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bell Ringers ● Exit Tickets ● Actively Learns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Trafficking Paper

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schoology Discussion Board Posts● Schoology Assignments | |
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Notes (what worked, didn't work, want to change, etc.):

VIDEO HUB

Overview

- This section is to provide a video hub where multimedia can be found to help supplement the above curriculum.

Video Description

Artificial Intelligence

1. *A.I. Revolution / Full Documentary / NOVA / PBS*— explores promise, risks, and impact of AI. YouTube
2. *In the Age of AI (full documentary) / FRONTLINE*— traces how AI is changing work, privacy, and power. YouTube
3. *SB-1047: The Battle For The Future Of AI*— a look at legislative efforts (California) to regulate AI. YouTube+1
4. *AI: Does Artificial Intelligence Threaten Our Human Identity? / DW Documentary*— ethical / identity risks of AI. YouTube
5. *The Revolution Of AI / Artificial Intelligence Explained*— a more accessible documentary overview. YouTube+1

Bonus documentary suggestion (not necessarily on YouTube): *Machine of Human Dreams*— follows a researcher's quest toward artificial general intelligence.

Your Digital Mind (Social Media & Technology)

- A Social Life

- Are You Living an Insta-Lie

Opioids in America

- *"America's Opioid Epidemic", "Painkiller: Inside the Opioid Crisis", or "Addiction by Design".*

Age of Outrage / Political Correctness

- America Inside Out: Age of Outrage

Homelessness in America

1. *Invisible People Documentary: Helping USA's Homeless with Mark Horvath* YouTube
2. *Prison, Homelessness, or Housing? The Choice That Changes Everything* (documentary/interview) YouTube
3. *Forgotten / Social Issues Documentary / Full Movie* – portrays life on the margins in Skid Row. YouTube
4. *ON THE STREETS* – a feature documentary on homelessness on YouTube
5. *Lost Angeles: City of Homeless* – a local look at the crisis in L.A. YouTube

The U.S. Prison System

1. *Life After Prison for People With Mental Illness / The Released (full documentary)* – explores reintegration challenges. YouTube

Vaping & Public Health

- Big Vape: The Rise and Fall of Juul
-

Anxiety in Youth

- Ted Talks
-

Abortion & Reproductive Rights

- Reversing Roe
-

Human Trafficking

- You should look for reputable NGOs or documentary series (e.g., *Trafficked*, *Human Trafficking: The Global Trade*, *Sold*, or *Invisible Chains*) on YouTube, PBS, or streaming platforms.

Extra Resources

Overview

- This section is to provide a few other resources that could be used throughout each unit.

Video Description

Artificial Intelligence

Websites / Articles

- [Stanford HAI \(Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence\)](https://hai.stanford.edu) - accessible research articles, policy briefs, and teaching resources on AI ethics. hai.stanford.edu
- [AI + Ethics Lesson Plans](https://unesdoc.unesco.org) - from UNESCO & MIT Media Lab, includes debate prompts and writing tasks. unesdoc.unesco.org
- [Brookings: "Regulating AI in the Public Interest"](https://www.brookings.edu) - policy analysis useful for argumentative writing. [brookings.edu](https://www.brookings.edu)

Primary Sources / Data

- [White House *Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights* \(2022\)](https://www.whitehouse.gov)
- [OECD "AI Policy Observatory"](https://www.oecd.org) - international comparisons of AI governance.

Interactive Tools

- [Google's Teachable Machine](#) (create a mini AI model for demonstration).
- [AI and Me](#) lesson set from Code.org – student-friendly introduction to AI decision-making.

Your Digital Mind (Social Media & Technology)

Websites / Articles

- [Common Sense Media](#) Digital Citizenship Curriculum – ready-to-use classroom lessons on online behavior and media bias. [commonsense.org](https://www.common Sense.org)
- [Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center](#) – research on misinformation and social media effects. [shorensteincenter.org](https://www.shorensteincenter.org)
- [The Social Dilemma](#) (Netflix Documentary) – includes classroom discussion guide at [thesocialdilemma.com/education](https://www.thesocialdilemma.com/education)

Primary Sources / Data

- [Pew Research Center: Teens, Social Media and Technology 2025](#) report.
- [Surgeon General's Advisory on Social Media and Youth Mental Health \(2023\)](#).

Interactive / Writing Extensions

- ["Spot the Troll" quiz](#) from Clemson University.
- [Class media analysis activity](#) using live social media posts or headlines.

Opioids in America

Websites / Articles

- [DEA One Pill Can Kill](#) campaign - classroom-friendly infographics and PSAs.
- [CDC Opioid Data Portal](#) - interactive maps showing overdose trends.
- [PBS LearningMedia: Understanding the Opioid Epidemic](#) - short clips and lessons.
- [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#) high school resources for health and civics integration.

Documentaries

- [Frontline: Chasing Heroin](#) (PBS)
- [Do No Harm: The Opioid Epidemic](#) (YouTube)

Writing Extensions

- [Argumentative essay: "Is the opioid crisis a health problem or a criminal problem?"](#)
- [Data-driven policy memo using CDC statistics.](#)

Age of Outrage / Political Correctness

Websites / Articles

- [The Free Speech Project](#) - Georgetown University collection of campus case studies.

- [AllSides.com](#) – compare how different news outlets report the same event.
- [Vox Explainers](#) on cancel culture and identity politics.
- [PBS NewsHour Classroom](#) – free lesson plans on civil discourse and polarization.

Primary Sources

- [The First Amendment, *Tinker v. Des Moines* \(1969\), *Snyder v. Phelps* \(2011\).](#)

Documentaries

- [*The Canceling of the American Mind*](#) (YouTube Lecture)
- [*Free Speech Fear Free*](#) (YouTube / Amazon Prime)

Homelessness in America

Websites / Articles

- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) – annual reports and data dashboards.
- [HUD Point-in-Time Count](#) data – real statistics for analysis projects.
- [Urban Institute](#) – policy research on housing and poverty.

Documentaries

- [*Frontline: Poverty, Politics and Profit*](#) (PBS)
- [*Lead Me Home*](#) (Netflix, 2021) – visual storytelling of homelessness in West Coast cities.
- [*Invisible People*](#) YouTube channel (interviews with unhoused individuals).

Classroom Extension

- [Students conduct a “Local Homelessness Audit” – analyze local data, write an editorial proposing solutions.](#)
-

The U.S. Prison System

Websites / Articles

- [*The Marshall Project* - excellent investigative journalism on justice reform.](#)
- [*The Sentencing Project* - data on incarceration and racial disparities.](#)
- [*Equal Justice Initiative \(EJI\)* - includes free teaching guides and discussion questions.](#)
- [*Vera Institute of Justice* - policy-based research with student-friendly visuals.](#)

Documentaries

- [*13th* \(Netflix\) - history of race and incarceration.](#)
 - [*Time: The Kalief Browder Story* \(Netflix\)](#)
 - [*Frontline: Life on Parole* \(PBS\)](#)
-

Vaping & Public Health

Websites / Articles

- [*CDC Vaping Information Portal*](#)– up-to-date stats and graphics.
- [*Truth Initiative*](#)– youth campaigns and interactive learning materials.
- [*FDA: The Real Cost Campaign*](#)– multimedia health education content.

Documentaries / Videos

- [*Vaping: The Youth Epidemic*](#) (PBS NewsHour Classroom)
- [*Broken: Big Vape*](#) (Netflix) – documentary on Juul and marketing to teens.
- [*Inside the Teenage Vaping Crisis*](#) (ABC News)

Extension

- [Students analyze ad campaigns for bias and create their own anti-vaping messages.](#)

Anxiety in Youth

Websites / Articles

- [*American Psychological Association \(APA\)*](#)– research summaries on adolescent anxiety.
- [*Child Mind Institute*](#)– student-friendly articles and coping strategies.
- [*KQED “FOMO: Fear of Missing Out”*](#) video lesson (short, excellent classroom use).
- [*Harvard Health Blog*](#)– evidence-based mental health discussions.

Documentaries

- [*Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety*](#) (available via IndieFlix Schools)
- [*Mind/Body Connection – Anxiety Explained*](#) (YouTube)
- [*The Kids We Lose*](#) (PBS)

Interactive Activities

- [Stress-mapping reflection sheet.](#)
- [Mindfulness journaling or guided meditation writing.](#)

Abortion and Reproductive Rights

Websites / Articles

- [*Pew Research Center: Public Opinion on Abortion*](#) data explorer.
- [*Guttmacher Institute: Policy Tracker and reproductive health data.*](#)
- [*SCOTUS Blog: plain-language summaries of Roe, Casey, Dobbs decisions.*](#)
- [*NPR / PBS: stories on access and law since Dobbs \(2022\).*](#)

Documentaries

- [*Reversing Roe*](#) (Netflix)
 - [*Abortion: Stories Women Tell*](#) (HBO)
 - [*The Janes*](#) (HBO Max) – about underground abortion networks in the 1970s.
-

Human Trafficking

Websites / Articles

- [*Polaris Project*](#): national data and survivor advocacy resources.
- [*U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report*](#).
- [*UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*](#).
- [*DHS Blue Campaign*](#): awareness and educational materials.
- [*Human Rights Watch*](#): case studies and survivor stories.

Documentaries

- [*I Am Jane Doe*](#) (Netflix / Amazon) – child sex trafficking and law reform.
- [*Not My Life*](#) (YouTube / UNODC) – global overview.
- [*Trafficked with Mariana van Zeller*](#) (Hulu / National Geographic).

Classroom Extensions

- [Research local / state efforts to combat trafficking.](#)
- [Write an informational essay connecting trafficking to global migration.](#)

Cross-Unit Resources

- [PBS LearningMedia](#) – searchable library of short videos and lesson plans aligned to social studies and health standards.
pbslearningmedia.org

- [NewseumED](http://newseumed.org) – excellent for First Amendment, civic discourse, and media literacy.
newseumed.org
- [ProCon.org](http://procon.org) – balanced perspectives on controversial issues (great for writing prompts).
procon.org
- [KQED Learn](http://learn.kqed.org) – interactive media literacy and discussion platform.
learn.kqed.org