

Current Events with a SEL Lens

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- What is SEL
- Setting up a space for SEL in your classroom with current events
- Building SEL with listening
- Case Study: Humanizing Immigration



Why is SEL important in education?



“The purpose of education is to cultivate thoughtful, informed, competent, creative, and compassionate students who, filled with a sense of wonder and an appreciation of life in all of its diversity, see themselves as active participants in creating a more just society,”

- Facing History staffer and veteran educator Doc Miller

What is Social Emotional Learning?



Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

<https://casel.org>



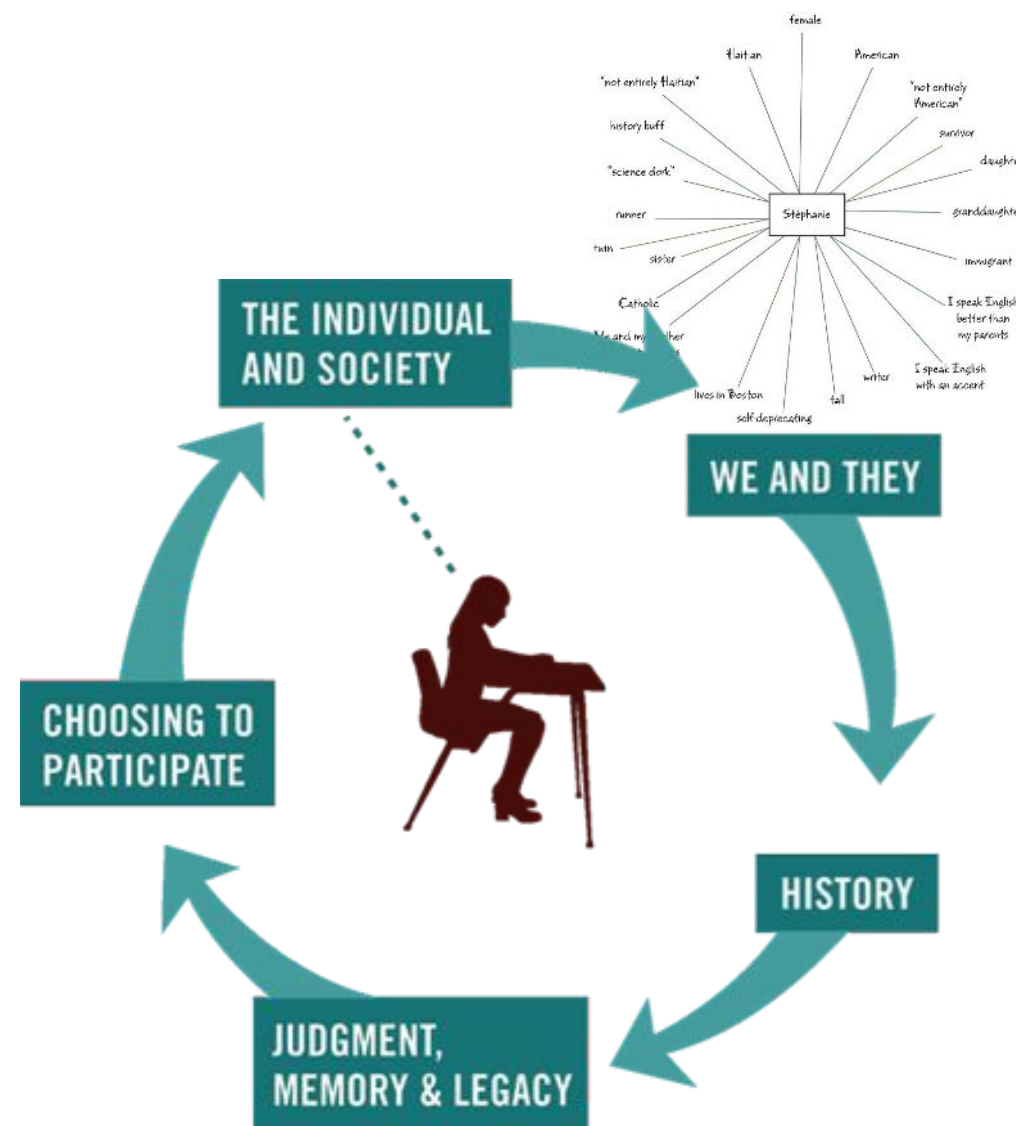
Creating Classrooms that support SEL



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Establishing Safe and Reflective Classrooms

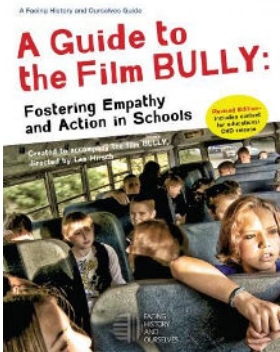
- create a sense of trust and openness
- encourage participants to speak and listen to each other
- make space and time for silent reflection
- offer multiple avenues for participation and learning
- help students appreciate the points of view, talents, and contributions of less vocal members



Sample Classroom Contract



- Listen with respect. Try to understand what someone is saying before rushing to judgment.
- Make comments using “I” statements. (“I disagree with what you said. Here’s what I think . . .”)
- If you do not feel safe making a comment or asking a question, write the thought down. You can ask the teacher after class to help you find a safe way to share the idea.
- If someone says an idea or question that helps your own learning, say “thank you.”
- If someone says something that hurts or offends you, do not attack the person. Acknowledge that the comment—not the person—hurt your feeling and explain why.
- Put-downs are never okay.
- If you don’t understand something, ask a question.
- Think with your head and your heart.
- Share talking time—provide room for others to speak.
- Do not interrupt others while they are speaking.
- Write down thoughts, in a journal or notebook, if you don’t have time to say them during our time together.



Keeping a Space for SEL in Divisive Times



- 1. Start with Yourself**
- 2. Develop a Reflective Classroom Community**
- 3. Create a Classroom Contract**
- 4. Provide Opportunities for Student Reflection**
- 5. Establish a Safe Space for Sensitive Topics**
- 6. Implement Effective Teaching Strategies**



Specifically with Current Events



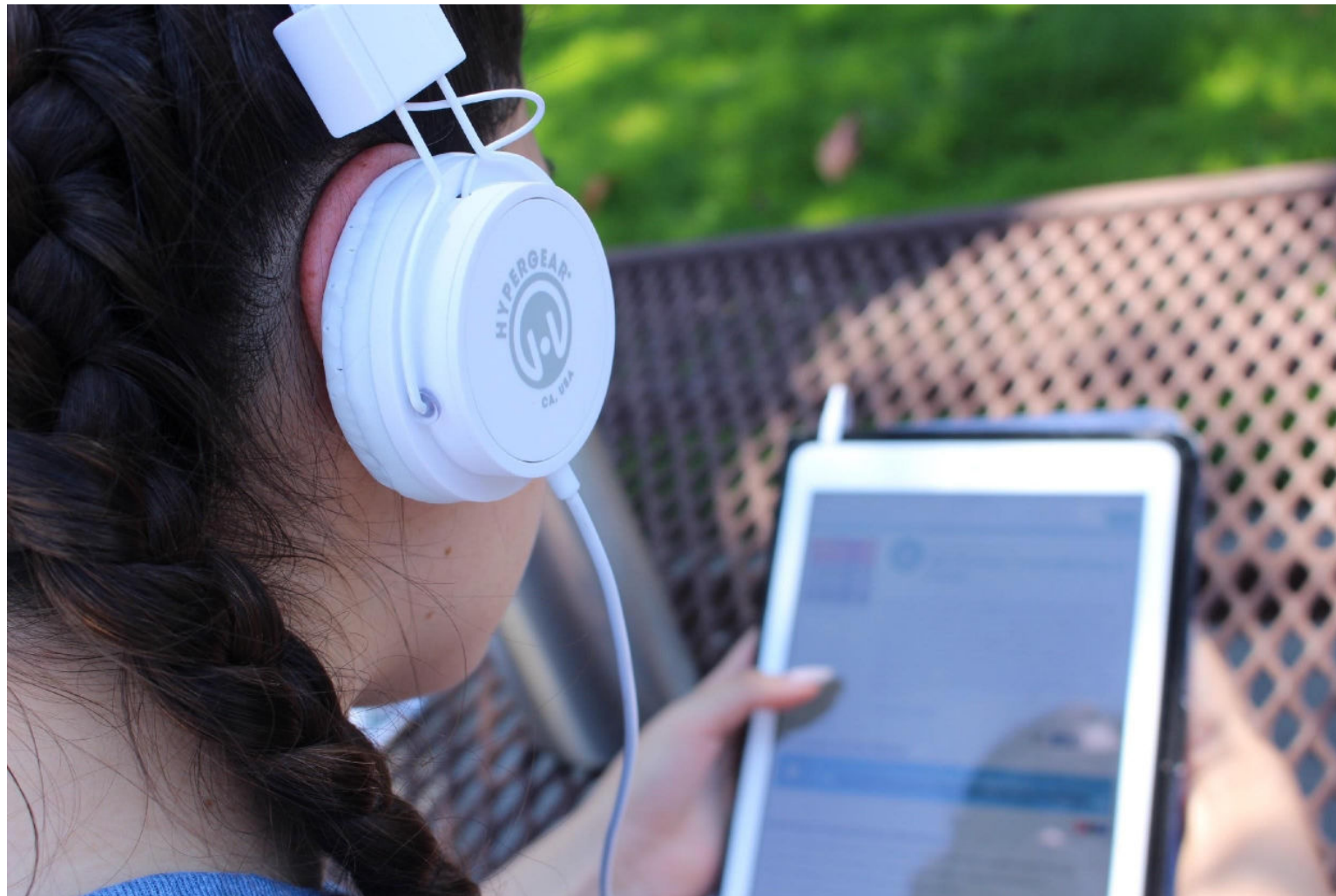
How do I choose which stories and issues to address?

Many teachers choose news stories to bring into their classrooms that relate directly to their curriculum. Many also give students the opportunity to take the lead in deciding which events to discuss. Regardless of whether or not students take the lead, we believe it is important to listen carefully to students to learn what stories and issues are affecting them directly or are on their minds.



When you want students to...	Try this strategy...
Uncover the complexity of an event	Iceberg
Discuss a contentious topic	Four Corners Save the Last Word for Me Big Paper
Process an emotionally difficult event	Journaling Color, Symbol, Image Graffiti Boards S-I-T

Listening Builds Understanding



Immersed Experience View



Storytelling and Empathy



Stories help us understand the world



Image in the public domain

CURRENT EVENT | SEPTEMBER 24, 2014

A 13-year-old Child Migrant Tells His Story

This summer an unprecedented number of unaccompanied young people crossed the border illegally into the United States. Many came with hopes of reuniting with family in the U.S. and escaping violence in their home countries. Now, their futures are uncertain as they are put in detention centers while their cases are processed. In today's public radio story you meet a 13-year-old migrant and his 11-year-old brother and hear from them about their journey across the border.

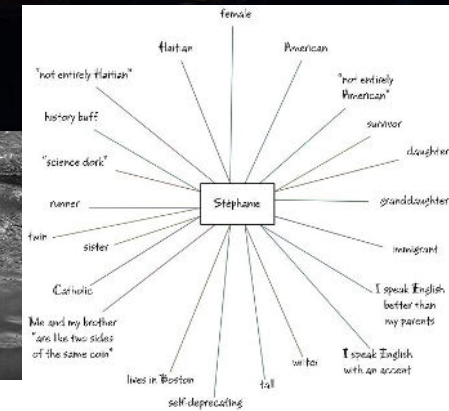
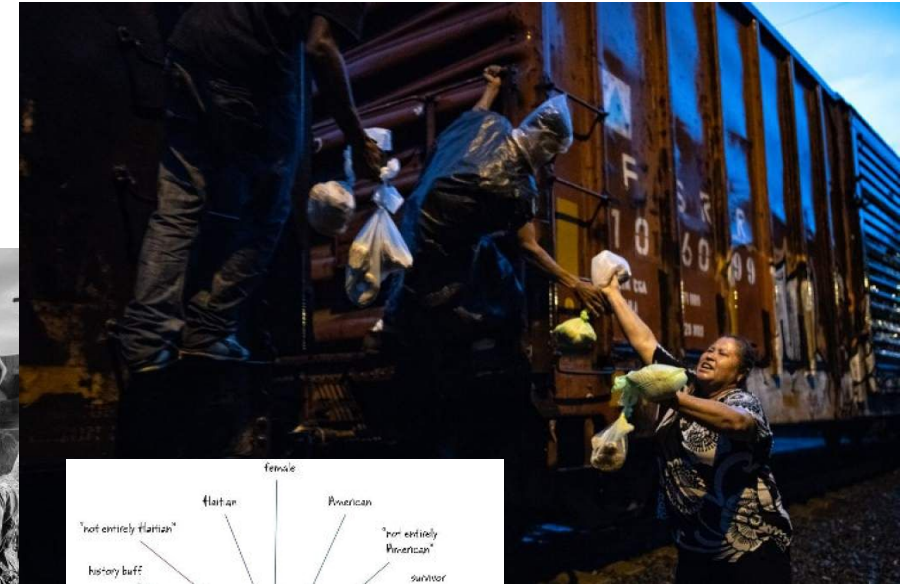
Immigration

Civics/Government

Economics

Current Event Topic: Global Migration

Today, as in the past, global migration raises questions for both individuals and nations about identity and belonging. Join us throughout the school year as we examine many aspects of global migration that help to contextualize and humanize what your students are seeing in the world around them.





Empathy:

- **Empathy, War and Video Games**

Positive Relationships:

- **Exploring Afghanistan through ‘The Kite Runner’**

Responsible Decision Making:

- **Flavored Vaping Attracts Teens**

Social Awareness:

- **Teen Girls and Positive Social Media Messages**

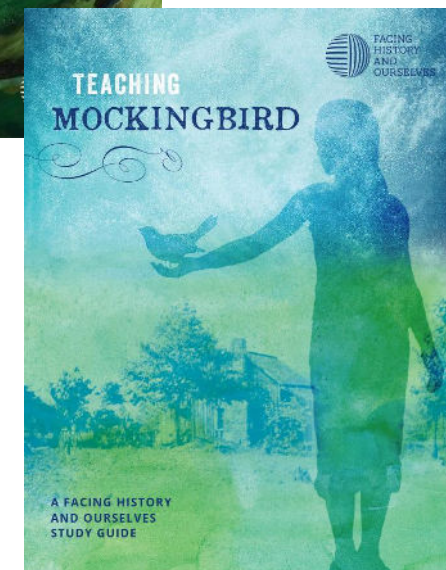
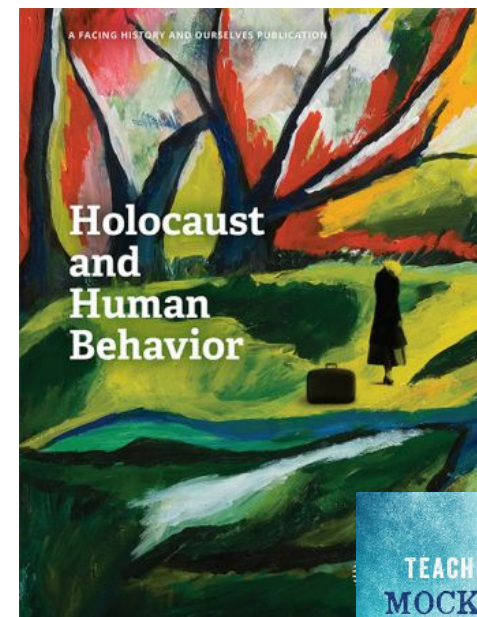
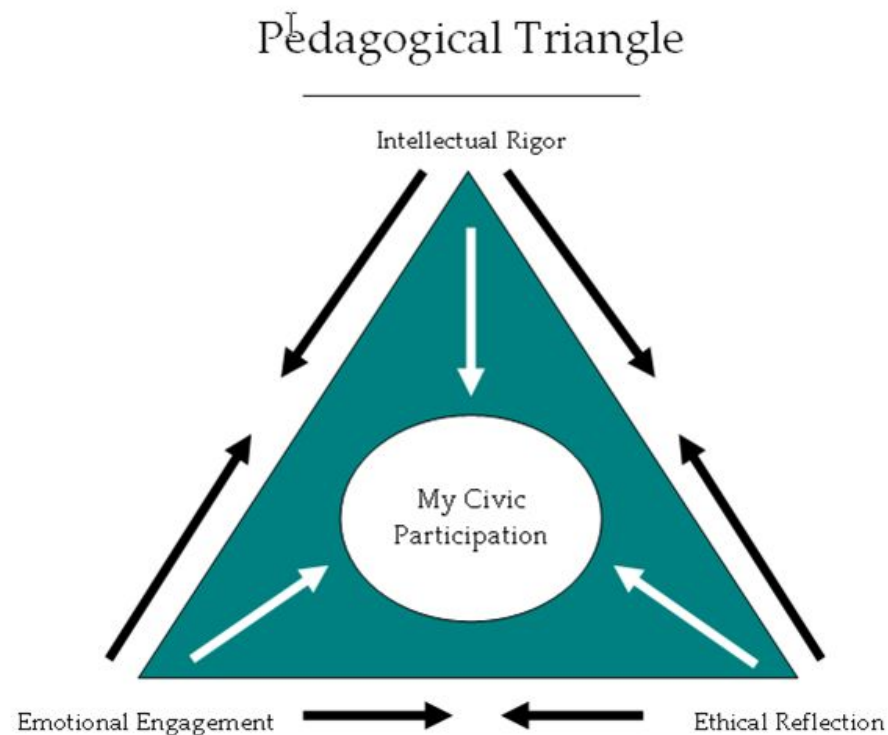
Stress Management:

- **Teens and Stress**

Building Empathy Through Deep Case Studies



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Facing History & SEL Resources



NEW Current Events page:

<https://www.facinghistory.org/educator-resources/current-events>

- [Facing History and SEL](#)
- [Fostering Civil Discourse](#)
- [Post-Election resources](#)
- [We Need to Talk](#)
- [Current Events](#)
- [Current Event Checklist](#)
- [Choices in Little Rock Unit](#)
- [Current Event idea: The Many Faces of Global Migration](#)
- [Identity Chart](#)



Find all of these links and a recording of this webinar at lanetwork.facinghistory.org and JOIN US next month for our final webinar in this series.



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