



*Teaching students how to
discuss important topics
with respect and reason*

AllSides For Schools delivers online and in-class programs for healthy communication and understanding of diverse perspectives to foster dialog, collaboration and critical thought.

- Grades: 6-12 and college
- Standards: Addresses Common Core and state standards for 6 – 12th grades. Ideal for Language Arts, Communications and Social Sciences (including History and Civics).
- Cost: Free non-profit pilot program

Objectives

Teach students how to consider and discuss topics with respect and reason so that they can make better decisions and build a more civil society and a better America. To do this, we:

- Foster skills in **communication, collaboration and critical thinking** that meet and exceed education standards, preparing students for their civic, work and personal lives
- Train students to have **civil conversations, seek diverse views and people**, and rationally consider multiple options so they can appreciate each other and make good decisions
- Increase and improve **participation in our democracy** by teaching students how to respectfully discuss today's political issues.

Students will

- **Learn how to respectfully engage with others**, listen actively and have a respectful conversation with an appreciation of multiple perspectives and our common humanity
- **Build skills for critical thought, productive collaboration and civil communication** through structured discussions of civic and other issues
- **Become aware of bias and filter bubbles**, how to break through them, and the danger of the ignorance, hyper-polarization and social divisions these can propagate
- **Be prepared to participate in our democracy** as voters and in their communities.

Teachers get

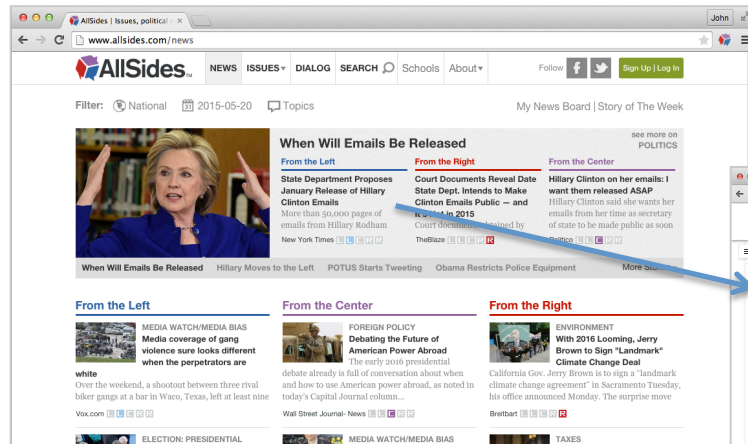
- **Tools, lesson plans and assessments** that meet educational standards for critical thinking, collaboration and communication
- **The ability to discuss controversial topics**, whether in news, politics, or the school community, in a civil and balanced way that respects all people
- **A school community with more mutual respect and appreciation** that can more easily and effectively work together.

Society benefits from

- **A more civically engaged population less vulnerable to manipulation** by central authorities, powerful organizations, and social groups
- **A generation more capable of handling complexity and making good decisions** for themselves and for society in general
- **Push back against hyperpolarization and divisiveness** in media, social networks and by politicians as students, teachers and parents demand better

Learn more or sign up at AllSides.com/schools or contact Lucy Pinto at lucy@allsides.com

Overview of Online Program



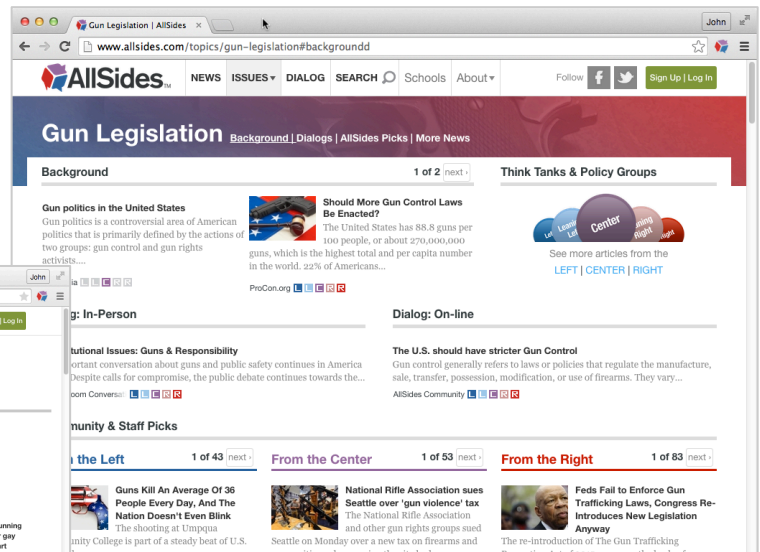
News Every Day:

Multiple angles on same story, plus the top stories from the left, center and right.

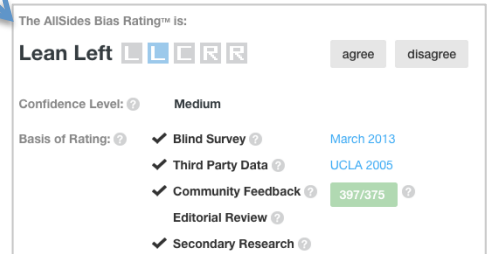
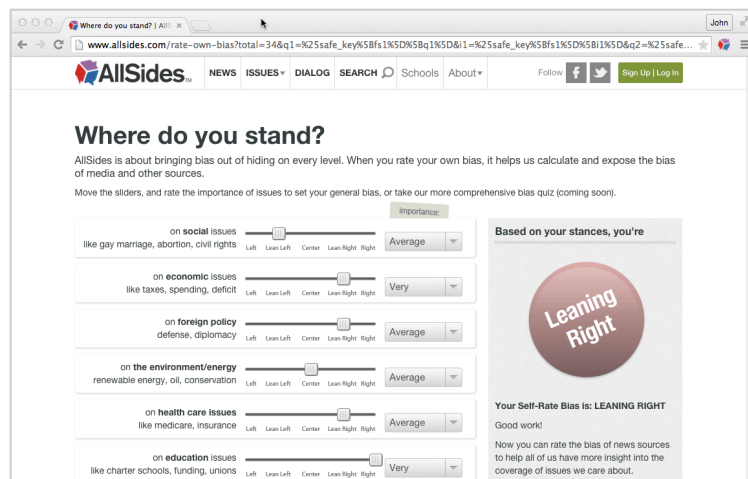


Issues: Get background and perspectives from across the spectrum.

Search the web and filter by bias to get the whole story, not just the most popular or best-advertised links.



Bias Ratings: Measure your own bias, compare with others, and rate the bias of publications and writers.



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Living Room Conversations
Open your ears. Open your mind. Open your home.

Legalized Marijuana

Download	Topic	Description
For the Day of Conversation - Legalized Marijuana	Legalized Marijuana	Overview, links to resources and conversation guide for the day of your conversation.
Invitation Sample		Invitation Sample

As the push for legalization spreads across the U.S., a different conversation emerges around marijuana. For decades, school-children have been taught this was a "just say no" substance; now increasingly, we see people (and states) "saying yes" - and doing it proudly. Is there a generational difference of opinion? On campuses,

Civil Conversation – in class, at home:

Effective dialog starts with establishing respect for each other, setting guidelines, and finding common ground. We provide the teacher with a process for the classroom, and provide everyone the tools to take it home with them.

Living Room Conversations
Open your ears. Open your mind. Open your home.

Legalized Marijuana, Now What?

Overview
In Living Room Conversations, six people come together to get to know one another in a more meaningful way - while also exploring a contested issue. Guided by a simple and sociable format, participants practice being open and curious about all perspectives, with a focus on learning from one another, rather than trying to debate the topic at hand.

The Living Room Conversation Ground Rules

Be Curious and Open to Learning
Listen to and be open to hearing all points of view. Maintain an attitude of exploration and learning. Conversation is as much about listening as it is about talking.

Show Respect and Suspend Judgment
Human beings tend to judge one another, do your best not to. Setting judgments aside will better enable you to learn from others and help them feel respected and appreciated.

Classroom Discussions

Should the federal government regulate genetic testing?

In 2013, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and a google backed genetic testing company, to disclose personal genetic testing. Read the Federal government for regulating genetic testing [HERE](#).

Slide Your Overall Opinion

Oppose **Support**

Others' Cons

- It's outrageous that the Federal government decides what you can know about yourself and what you can't. 0 comments
- People in Canada and England can receive health related genetic testing, why not in America? 0 comments
- Discrimination based on Genetic testing is real and scary, we should prevent all 0 comments

Give your Cons

We need a right to genetic privacy from the government and from employers 0 comments

Give your Pros

Without proper medical advice, people could take drastic/unnecessary measures with genetic results. Many men had their prostates removed even though it was later found that a positive PSA test result didn't increase more 3 comments

Others' Pros

This is a medical test like an HIV test or Diabetes test, we need regulation to ensure that these provides accurate results 0 comments

Save your opinion and see results

Civil Conversation – online:

Students view pros and cons, adopting or adding points they find most important or persuasive

Tests show that this increases listening and consideration of contrary views.

Students can then share and discuss with the class, learning how to collaborate, listen to others, and think critically.

AllSides™ NEWS ISSUES DIALOG SEARCH Schools About

Liz Lehman's 8th grade

Professor for: English Composition, Social Studies, Current Events

Followed by these and 62 other students

Main Board

Homework

- Find articles on Teacher Tenure with different biases & perspectives
- Construct pro and con arguments for the Vergara case about teacher tenure for class discussion
- Reminder: Read news everyday!

Nancy Parker

Self-rated Bias: YOUNG OUTSIDER

Followed by these and 62 other students

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Recent Activity

Clipped All Shapington does not have my ear: Why we need new black leadership now Rated Thelbaze as 0 comments

Linda Craig and 12 others Rated Politico as 0 comments

Rated ABC News as 0 comments

Teacher & Student Pages, Diverse Dialogs:

Teachers and students use their own pages to clip, organize and share – great for research, collaboration and guiding the class.

Students can also start dialogs with others in their class or classes across the country with their teacher's permission.

Step 1: Pick a diverse discussion group

- Mary Suarez **BYSTANDER**
El Paso, Texas
- Kerry Young **HARD-PRESSED SKEPTIC**
Albany, New York
- Brad Owen **BUSINESS CONSERVATIVE**
Conway, South Carolina
- Lucy Wilson **NEXT GENERATION LEFT**
Reno, Nevada

[More ...](#) [Cancel](#)