

DeLossa, Robert

From: Monica Brady-Myerov <monica@listenwise.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 5:19 PM
To: DeLossa, Robert
Subject: 9.27.20 Newsletter - Teaching About COVID-19

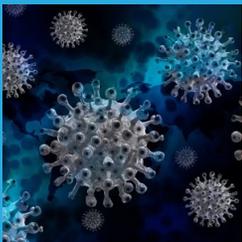


Hi Robert,

As the pandemic continues to take lives, damage our economy, and disrupt schooling, we thought it would be helpful to gather our [COVID-related podcast lessons](#) together in a collection that's easy for you to use with students.

Look out this week for a current event that reflects on the contributions Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made to leveling the playing field for men and women. If you are an RGB fan, you might enjoy listening [to this heartwarming story](#) from NPR's Supreme Court reporter Nina Totenberg about her 50-year friendship with Justice Ginsburg.

Teaching About COVID-19 With Listenwise



In this week's blog, you'll find our most engaging and informative COVID-19 podcast lessons, organized by topic. Some lessons explain the science behind the pandemic and the best way to stay safe. Others explore COVID's impact on sports, the environment, communities of color, education, and of course, the upcoming election. Lessons offer the chance for students to learn, reflect, and sometimes debate. You'll even find some fun Weird News stories to help students remember to socially distance!

Podcast Lessons Teach Democracy and Civic Engagement

Did you know that Tuesday was National Voter Registration Day? First observed in 2012, the nonpartisan civic holiday is a reminder to voters to check their registration status and, if necessary, register to vote. The November election offers an excellent opportunity to integrate civics lessons into the curriculum and develop students' understanding of how our democracy operates. Explore our [collection of 2020 election podcast lessons](#) for relevant audio stories to support teaching about democracy and the election.

Current Events & Hot Topics



[Western Fires Require Federal Help](#)

Wildfires are burning out of control in California, Oregon, and other states in the western U.S., and now National Guard units from outside the region are being sent to help battle the blazes. Officials are asking other countries like Canada and Mexico to send fire crews, too. The huge fires are moving close to cities and towns and have posed a dangerous threat to homes, people, and wildlife. Listen to hear why fires are becoming bigger and more frequent in the West and what firefighters have been prioritizing as they spread out of control.



[Supreme Court Women](#)

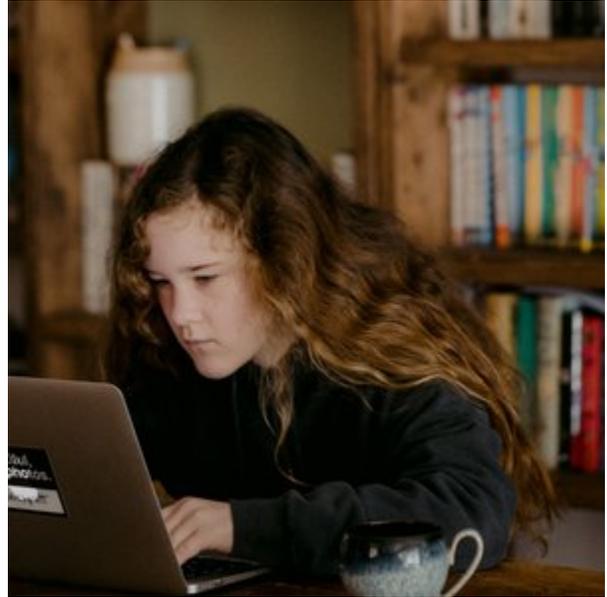
Being a working mother is difficult, but being one of the first two females on the Supreme Court may be even harder. Listen to learn how the female justices of the Supreme Court juggle family obligations and the demands of the court, and how challenges facing working women have changed over the past decades.

PODCAST LESSON



Understanding Systemic Racism

Systemic racism, also called structural racism, refers to the way institutions in our society are set up to disadvantage black Americans. Often the racist systems are rooted in the past, such as the “redlining” system banks used in the early 20th century to refuse housing loans to people of color, but they created racial inequities still felt today. George Floyd’s death prompted protesters and others to call attention to systemic racism in policing, education, criminal justice, medicine, and other key societal institutions. Listen to a writer explain how systemic racism works to keep minorities from advancing, and what she believes could lead to meaningful change.



Debate: Should Teachers Address Current Events?

The dramatic events of recent months, including a worldwide pandemic, protests over racial injustice, and raging wildfires in the West, are on the minds of students and teachers, and some teachers are incorporating them into the curriculum. They say placing current events in the context of classroom study helps students make sense of the issues and boosts their civic engagement. Others worry that these issues can be polarizing or upsetting and want the classroom to be an escape for students from the drama taking place outside of school. Listen to secondary school teachers explain their views on bringing current issues into the classroom and then debate: Should teachers address current events?

Listenwise News Bites Podcast - Now On Spotify

Listenwise News Bites is a current events podcast for young listeners featuring fun, interesting, relevant news stories that keep kids engaged, informed, and entertained during times of remote learning. This week, episode 18 features the wildfires that are ravaging the Northwest. We look at how difficult it is to fight fires during a pandemic. And we hear about the importance of using punctuation in text messages. For student reflection: How do you think communities can help people affected by the wildfires? Listen on [Spotify](#), [Apple podcasts](#), or [Libsyn](#).



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