

Current Events: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 4 and 5: Sharing Agriculture's News

Estimated Lesson Length:	2, 50 minute class periods
Recommended Grades:	7-9
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 41
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Create an agricultural newsletter that includes local, national and global issues.	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Course textbook Computers with Internet access and word processing capabilities Newsletter activity sheet (AS 1.2)	



Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest approach:	<i>Review prior day.</i> After completing attendance and announcements, remind the students of the progress they have made so far in exploring current agricultural events this week.	5 minutes
2. Newsletter activity – Creating the Draft (Day 1)	For the next two days, the students will work in groups of three to create a newsletter highlighting local, national and global current events. Explain that their newsletter should provide accurate and educational information about agriculture. By the end of today, they will need to submit a paper and pencil/pen draft of their newsletter. Tomorrow they will have the opportunity to enter it on the computer in a word processing program. Let them know that the newsletter needs to be neat, accurate and contain all of the information included on the activity sheet. <i>Distribute copies of the activity sheet (AS 1.2) included with this lesson.</i> Review each of the items on the activity sheet to make sure the students are clear on what is being requested. When all questions have been answered, allow the students to begin work on their pencil and paper draft of the newsletter. As the students are working, roam the room to provide suggestions and guidance. <i>At the end of day one, review each student's draft copy. If it is not ready, ask them to take it with them as homework. They need to have the draft complete prior to class the following day.</i>	40-45 minutes
3. Newsletter Activity – Final Product (Day 2)	After completing attendance and announcements, remind students that their newsletter needs to include all of the items on the activity sheet! Allow students to begin work on the computers, entering their	45 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
	draft document into its final electronic format. <i>Recommend that the students consider using the brochure template in Word or the newsletter template in Publisher for their electronic copy.</i> As students complete their newsletters ask them to submit them along with the items produced the earlier in the week.	
4. Summary, review and projects to collect	Thank the students for their hard work over the past week and encourage them to continue to share positive messages about agriculture!	5 minutes

Newsletter Project

Names: _____

Topics Selected: _____

Content

Score

_____ **Background information and learning**

1

Incomplete background leaves audience confused

3

Missing background information detracts from the message

5

Full and detailed background information informs the audience

_____ **Point of view**

Point of view is not evident

Point of view is clearly evident but weakly supported by examples

Point of view is clearly evident and supported with concrete evidence

_____ **Points of interest**

No points of interest

Adequate points of interest

Excellent points of interest

Layout Checklist (3 points each)

- _____ Stories answer who, what, where, when, why and how.
- _____ Graphics enhance newsletter content.
- _____ Title is catchy and reflective of the content.

Conventions and Usage (3 points each)

- _____ Are words spelled correctly and is all text grammatically correct?
- _____ Is word choice creative and interesting?
- _____ Can readers hear the author's voice when they read the newsletter?
- _____ Is the newsletter written in the proper style or genre?
- _____ Are sources cited?

_____ **TOTAL SCORE**