

# 6.10 DIGITAL CURATION PROJECT

**Essential Question(s):** How has the media responded to my social justice issue?

## Overview

Our current world offers a seemingly endless stream of media, from news stories to blog posts, Instagram feeds to social media memes, and more. Some media from news sites is fact-based straight reporting or opinion pieces advocating a particular point of view. Other pieces are thought provoking nonfiction informing us about our own communities, or places on the other side of the world. In many cases, visual images convey the story or offer different perspective(s).

**Teacher Note:** This lesson can serve as a final Unit 6 project on civics issues and media literacy or as a stand-alone lesson focused on assessing media and creating a content collection that provides audiences with a student's point of view about a particular social justice issue.

## Snapshot

### What Students Will Learn:

This lesson has students curate a digital storyboard relating to a social justice issue they have already studied or are interested in. Students will select from a variety of media sources that have covered their issue, and address how that issue has been covered, including how perspective and bias are seen in various sources on the selected issue.

### Standard(s):

D2.Civ.10.9-12

**Time:** 50 minutes each



## Objectives

- Identify a social justice issue and decide how to position it.
- Apply visual and media literacy skills to select digital assets that support their social justice issue.
- Curate a digital collection that conveys their framing for their social justice issue.

## Differentiation

The quantity of curated materials can be changed.

## What's Needed

- ☐ Writing utensil and paper or 1:1 technology
- ☐ WiFi, internet, computer, screen or projector, speakers
- ☐ Make copies of the “[Digital Curation Project Guide](#),” one for each student.

## Classroom Setup

This lesson should have the flexibility of allowing students to work independently or in pairs, provided they have a peer interested in the same social justice issue. Desks should be set up to support independent or paired work time with access to 1:1 technology.

## Direct Teaching

1. Welcome students to class. Ask students to respond to the following question:  
*In your opinion, what is the most important thing to look for when determining if news is legitimate or not? Why?*
2. Explain to students that they are going to complete a digital curation project. You can ask students to define digital curation. Then explain that if they have used Pinterest or set up a music playlist, they have curated a digital collection.
3. Distribute the “Digital Curation Project Guide” and talk through it with students, answering any questions they may have.

Explain that for this project, they are to focus on a social justice issue that they have learned about in school or one that matters to them. They are to curate different media (e.g., stories, images, videos, news articles, memes, social media posts, etc.) that support what they want to convey about their social justice issue. They are to prepare their digital curation to be shared for viewing.

**Note:** Students can use different tools for digital curation. Consider having them use what is readily available so that learning how to use a tool does not get in the way of finding, analyzing, selecting and

## Key Vocabulary

digital curation  
media literacy  
news  
visual literacy



curating media.

One criteria is that students are able to share their digital curation projects. If students choose to use more sophisticated tools, the focus should still be mostly on how well they analyze, intentionally select media, and curate their media to convey their social justice issue. Some readily available options are a presentation tool like Google Slides or Pinterest.

4. Provide work time for students. You can use the time to confirm how they will frame the social justice issue they are interested in and help them get set up to start their digital curation.
5. When complete, have students submit their curation projects so that they can be shared. You can use an online board or have them create QR codes which can be distributed to community members or included on posters, hung gallery style around the school building with a title, an image and very brief description of their project.

# DIGITAL CURATION PROJECT GUIDE

A curation project can be linear, with an order that guides your audience through it in a particular way or you can allow a viewer to explore the information in many different ways, much like you would look at a Pinterest board, or an interest board with various links and pieces of information.

**Directions:** Apply your visual and media literacy skills as well as what you've learned about bias and the importance of multiple perspectives to find, analyze and select media to go into your digital curation project. Follow the prompts below to help guide your digital curation.

1. **Choose a social justice issue as the focus for your digital curation.** Select from the list below or indicate the social justice issue that interests you.

<input type="checkbox"/> Being an American	<input type="checkbox"/> Gun policies
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Lives Matter	<input type="checkbox"/> Immigration, refugees, asylum
<input type="checkbox"/> #Me Too	<input type="checkbox"/> Gender Wage Gap
<input type="checkbox"/> Barriers to voting/disenfranchisement	<input type="checkbox"/> Incarceration
<input type="checkbox"/> Human rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Police (power, privilege)
<input type="checkbox"/> Protests	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

2. **Decide what you would like to convey about your social justice issue.** This decision will guide your digital curation.

Will you...

<input type="checkbox"/> Use media to support a particular point of view?
<input type="checkbox"/> Feature different perspectives about the issue?
<input type="checkbox"/> Highlight ways that both real straight news and fake, misinformation have covered the story?
<input type="checkbox"/> Feature both text and visual (photographs or videos) content?
<input type="checkbox"/> Note how satire or memes have addressed the issue?
<input type="checkbox"/> Motivate your audience to take action and support your social justice issue?

3. **Briefly state why this issue is interesting or important.**

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4. **Summarize your position or point of view about this issue.**

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5. Summarize how the media *agrees* with your position on this issue (paragraph & links).

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6. Summarize how the media *disagrees* with your position on this issue (paragraph & links).

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7. Summarize how the media (e.g., opinion or Op-Ed pieces) cover this issue and how coverage agrees and disagrees with your position (paragraph & links).

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8. Summarize the type of images that appear when you search for your social justice issue and position on it (paragraph & links).

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9. In your research, did you come across any 'fake news' sites that had misinformation on the issue? What were those stories trying to achieve?

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10. Did you find any satire stories or memes that addressed the issue with humor? How might those inform your project?

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# Curation of Your Digital Project

Be sure to upload all sources and pictures to your curation board. Remember to write comments on each source and picture detailing its relation to your issue and the bias that can come with it. Remember that you can start with a lot of media to choose from but that your final digital curation relies on your intentional selection of media.