

Noteworthy Practices

# CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION



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## Infusing World Issues into the Classroom to Develop Concerned Citizens

Srijith implemented lessons called “What’s the Scoop?” since 2016 to keep students abreast of world issues. A newspaper article is selected for students to engage in every fortnight, both verbally, through a whole-class discussion on the matter at hand, and in written form. Tasks that students have to carry out in written form include synthesizing and summarising the article in their own words, using the dictionary to find out the meaning of target vocabulary words pertaining to the broad theme and elaborating on a range of personal opinion-based questions. Discussions are held in a non-threatening and open classroom environment where students are comfortable with sharing their views.



### IMPACT

Students have made use of these platforms to share their views and debate on matters that resonate with them, as well as use some of the ideas to supplement their writing. This year, students have also started bringing in their own articles for sharing in the first five to ten minutes of every lesson. Students present their articles by summarising key points, sharing why the article resonates with them and attempting to take questions from the rest of their classmates in a “Q&A” format. “What’s the Scoop?” has resulted in significantly higher engagement levels, due to its potential for rich discussion and debate on a plethora of topics.

This initiative definitely has the potential to be scaled to other schools as the nature of current affairs is ever-changing and teachers have the flexibility and choice on the topics to choose, as well as the direction in which discussions should be steered. There is scope for these activities to tap on ICT affordances and incorporate collaborative and self-directed learning elements as well.

