

Better Connected

Activity 1: Glossary Discussion Activity

Students will work together to discuss and familiarize themselves with the book's glossary.

Format:

- Small Groups

Materials:

- Better Connected book

Instructions:

1. Have students get into small groups (3-4)
2. Instruct students to take turns reading the terms and definitions on pages 94-95 of the book.
3. Have students discuss the following questions as they read:
 - Have we heard of this term before? If yes, where and in what context?
 - Are there any words that we would like to learn more about?
 - Choose one word that your group finds especially important or interesting. Someone in your group can share that word with the class and explain why you chose it.

- Are there any words that you still don't feel you fully understand? Share those with the class to see what others think they mean.

Activity 2: Going Against the Grain

Students will watch Ann Makosinski's TEDx talk about why she still uses a flip phone as a young tech innovator and discuss their thoughts and feelings about her choice.

Format:

- Teacher-Facilitated Group Discussion

Materials:

- Computer
- Projector

Instructions:

1. Watch Ann Makosinski's TEDx talk about why she still uses a flip phone as a young tech innovator <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjaM0tdxtYA>. (12 minutes)
2. Ask the class the following questions:
 - What do you think of her choice?
 - Do you think having a smart phone hinders creativity and problem solving?
 - How might a smart phone help support creativity and problem solving?
 - Can we set healthy boundaries for ourselves around smart-phone use? Any examples?

Activity 3: Social Media 101

In small groups, students will create an outline of a lesson plan to teach youth their age about social media. They will determine what they think is important for young people to know and consider the different ways social media can be used, like: research, connecting with people who love similar things or live in different places, creativity and self-expression.

Format:

- Groups of 2-4

Materials:

- Printouts of the Social Media 101 Handout

Instructions:

1. Have students get into groups of 2-4
2. Instruct students to look at page 8 of the book and complete the “Social Media 101” Handout.
3. If time allows, have students share their lesson plans with the class.

Social Media 101 Handout

Name(s): _____

Take another look at Tanya and Julia's text-exchange on page 8. Building off of Tanya's question to Julia, create an outline of a lesson plan to teach youth your age about social media. Consider the different ways social media can be used, such as: research, connecting with people who love similar things or live in different places, creativity and self-expression. What do you think is important for young people to know?

Lesson Plan:

Learning Goal: (What do you hope to teach others about social media?)

Materials Needed:

Instructions/Activity: (How will you teach the learning goal? - list steps)

Activity 4: Teens in the News

Students will use the handout provided and one of the stories from *Better Connected* to create a positive news story about how teens are using online spaces for good.

Format:

- Groups of 2-4

Materials:

- Printouts of the Teens in the News Handout

Instructions:

1. Ask the class the following questions to facilitate class discussion:
2. Use the handout provided, “Teens in the News” and one of the stories from the *Better Connected* book to create a positive news story about how teens are using online spaces for good.
3. If time allows, have students share their news articles with the class.

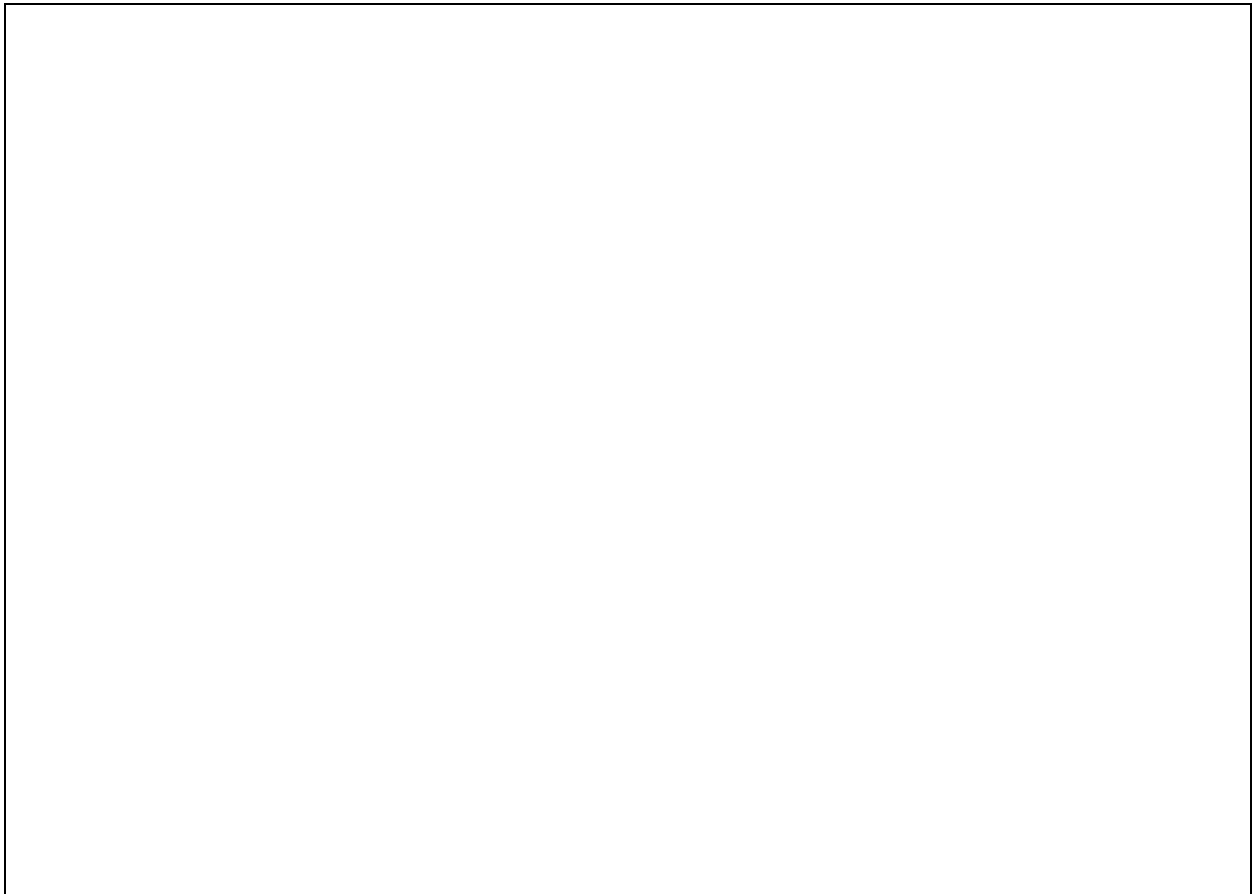
Teens in the News Handout

Name(s): _____

Pick one of the stories from Better Connected to help create a positive news story about how teens are using online spaces for good. Use the space below to write your short news story. Be sure to use a headline, image and 3 sentence summary of the news.

Headline: _____

Image:



Article Text:

Activity 5: Young Activists

Students will watch Isabel and Melati's Ted Talk with advice to young activists and discuss the role that social media and technology played (or could play) in their project. They will also discuss any social issues they are passionate or curious about.

Format:

- Teacher-Facilitated Group Discussion

Materials:

- Computer
- Projector

Instructions:

1. Watch Isabel and Melati's Ted Talk with advice to young activists
https://www.ted.com/talks/melati_and_isabel_wijsen_our_campaign_to_ban_plastic_bags_in_bali?language=en (11 minutes)
2. Ask the class the following questions:
 - What strategies or lessons do you think made their initiative so successful?
 - What role did (or could) social media and technology play in their project?
 - Are there any social issues that you are passionate about? Have you seen these issues advocated for on social media?

Activity 6: Passion Project

Students will think of something they are really skilled at or passionate about that they think others would benefit from or be interested in learning about from them. They will design and create content that brings that lesson/message to life.

Format:

- Individual

Materials:

- Device(s)
- Projector
- Printouts of the Passion Project handout

Instructions:

1. Have students refer to the handout, “Passion Project”.
2. Depending on devices available, and teacher discretion, students can either create online content or utilize the handout space provided to draw/write something on paper that could be replicated on a social media platform (Instagram, Youtube, TikTok, etc.)