NEWS BREAK

Article:  

Online learning teaches parents a difficult lesson

Section:  

MAIN, A12

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, April 26, 2020 of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will discuss how they feel about online/distance learning, and whether they feel it’s overwhelming or not. They will talk about whether there is additional stress in their family and what their experience has been so far. They will discuss the time of day do they normally do school work and why that works best for them. Students will discuss what their teacher assigns them and what combination of tools they are expected to use at this time. They will discuss how they are being personally affected by the coronavirus shut-down and whether they are alright. They will think about whether this generation of students may end up suffering academically, socially and emotionally or whether they could end up stronger and more resilient.
Pre-Reading Discussion:

- What do you think the article will be about? Are there clues in the picture?
- What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using context clues? A context clue is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“Amid the barrage of learning apps, video meetups and emailed assignments that pass as pandemic home school, some frustrated and exhausted parents are choosing to disconnect entirely for the rest of the academic year.”

Barrage Guess:

Barrage Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. ________________ is mounting as more families across the U.S. enter their second or even third week of distance learning — and some overwhelmed parents say it will be their last.
2. What is contributing to stress for many families?
3. Parents are concerned their kids are falling behind, especially in lower income families. In households where the parents earn less than $50,000 total annually, _____% are at least somewhat concerned about their child
falling behind academically, compared with ____% of parents in high-income households, according to a late-March poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

4. Many school districts are emphasizing to parents that the ____________ __________ is steep, and some teachers try to avoid daily deadlines, instead allowing students to go at their own pace.

5. California high school teacher Susan Binder said the technology can be ______________ and ______________. Many of the apps elementary schools must now rely on — with names like Seesaw, Epic and IXL — were only intended as a tool to enhance classroom learning or share students’ work with parents.

6. What was the example given about online learning in Italy?

7. What was the example given about what’s happening in France?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

• How are you feeling about online/distance learning? Is it going ok? Is it overwhelming? Do you or your family feel stress about it? What has your personal experience been so far?
• When time of day do you normally do your school work? Why does this time work best for you?
• The article stated some classes involve recorded videos from teachers, online quizzes and the occasional interactive Zoom call. What is your teacher providing and expecting of you? Do you have a combination of online assignments?
• How are kids being affected in the coronavirus shut-down? Are you ok?
• Do you think this generation of students may end up suffering academically, socially and emotionally? Might they end up stronger and more resilient? Why or why not?
• Should parents and kids give up online learning if they’re overwhelmed? Would there be a better alternative that you’d suggest to parents that are feeling frustrated?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.
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