

news {..BYTES..}

for eEditions

grades 9-12

1 Facebook

A few years ago a high school student in Florida created a Facebook page to let everyone know how much she hated her English teacher. The student, Katherine Evans, was suspended from school. Evans, now a sophomore in college, sued the school's principal on the grounds that her Facebook comments were protected by the First Amendment, which promises the right to free speech. The principal tried to have the case dismissed, but last week the judge ruled that the case can go ahead. Find something in the news that connects to a constitutional issue, such as free speech. Write an outline of the situation and your opinion on it. Review the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution before searching the news.

Learning Standards: Engaging each other in elaborated conversations that examine public policy issues; explaining the meaning and origin of the ideas, including the core democratic values, expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and other foundational documents.

2 No Phone Zone

The government is trying to prevent "distracted driving" – driving while texting or talking on the phone – with new laws, a Web site and TV commercials. Oprah Winfrey is helping to publicize the problem by asking people to sign a "No Phone Zone" pledge on her Web site. In groups, design a campaign to reduce the risks of distracted driving. Write down a plan for what your campaign would look like, including what your primary message is, who your target audience is, what means you would use to reach your audience and who your spokespeople would be. Create an eEdition ad that's part of the campaign.

Learning Standard: Consistently using strategies to regulate the effects of variables on the communication process. An example is designing a communication environment for maximum impact on the receiver.

3 iPhone

February 24 is the birthday of Apple Computer co-founder Steve Jobs. Jobs helped develop and market innovative – and wildly successful – products for the company, including the iMac computer, the iPod and the iPhone. The iPhone, especially, proved so popular that it sent competing companies scrambling to produce a similar product. In teams or pairs, use the eEdition to brainstorm an idea for what the next big thing might be in the world of technology. Draw a sketch of your idea. Give it a name. Share it with the class.

Learning Standards: Showing how common themes of science, mathematics and technology apply in real world contexts; applying knowledge, ideas and issues drawn from texts to students' lives and the lives of others; asking questions that help students learn.

4 Impression

Pierre-Auguste Renoir was a famous French artist. He was born on February 25, 1841. Renoir was one of the first to paint in the Impressionist style. Look at Impressionist paintings online or in books. Pick one painting. Pretend you are an eEdition art critic, and you've just seen the painting in an art show. Write a review of it (look at book, movie or museum reviews in the eEdition first to understand the style). Share reviews as a class.

Learning Standards: Developing and applying critical standards for individual use; writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions, such as stories, poetry, personal narratives, editorials, research reports, persuasive essays, resumes and memos.

5 Time for Review

Every once in a while it's good to review the features of your eEdition to refresh your memory on all its features. A great way to do this is to click on the "Help," "Introduction" or "Information" icon. Usually this is in the toolbar at the top of the page. Whatever it is called, this

Learning Standards: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; comparing information technologies from the past and present.

icon is the "How To" button for your eEdition. One of the important things to know is how to move through your eEdition. There are several ways. When starting out, it is helpful to try each to see which you like best. Start with the navigation arrows, which usually are in the toolbar. They often are labeled "First," "Prev," "Next," and "Last." Click on each. Then write a sentence describing how each allows you to move through your eEdition. Finish by writing a short paragraph summarizing the advantages of using the navigation arrows and comparing that to reading a printed newspaper.

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For Tomorrow