

Teaching With Read to Know: A User's Manual

What is *Read to Know*?

Read to Know is a weekly online news magazine that provides the high-quality, grade-level nonfiction reading your students need to meet the Common Core State Standards. *Read to Know* is published 48 weeks of the year.

Read to Know is an interactive program, designed for independent reading. Students can access *Read to Know* on a computer, Pad or other tablet, or netbook. You can also print out hard copies of *Read to Know* stories for use in guided reading and other small groups.

What sets *Read to Know* apart?

Unlike mainstream news sites pitched at a general adult audience, *Read to Know* is written at a level appropriate for students in grades 5 to 10, as well as other students reading at that level. *Read to Know* provides you with fresh weekly news content that's appropriate and relevant for your students. And unlike a mainstream news magazine or website, *Read to Know* includes the background information your students need to fully understand the issues and comprehend what they are reading.

Read to Know covers stories that are in the news and are educationally relevant. *Read to Know* doesn't shy away from controversial topics. Instead, it provides a balanced look at these topics, giving your students the tools they need to think critically about challenging and important issues that affect their lives.

Read to Know components:

Each issue of *Read to Know* includes about five to seven stories about current national and international issues in the news, ranging from politics, government, and civics to science and environmental stories, to geography, economics, sports, and the arts.

To accompany the clearly written text, each story also contains images that help to further explain the story or to add interest to the story. These images may include current news photos, historic photos, maps, graphs, and more.

In addition to current news stories, *Read to Know* also includes regular features such as the "Country of the Week," "This Week in History," and "News Words."

Each story ends with an online self-correcting comprehension quiz.

Each story includes "Essential Questions" – critical thinking questions that encourage students to look at the stories in more depth and express their own opinions. These also make excellent research and writing assignments.

The stories also have web links to external websites and videos that supply more materials and additional resources for more in-depth learning.

The *Read to Know* stories and quizzes can also be downloaded for distribution.

How to use *Read to Know*

- Assign *Read to Know* as nonfiction reading for your independent reading block, where students can read at their own pace.
- Use *Read to Know* stories as nonfiction reading in your guided reading groups. You can download and print hard copies of the text or provide students access to it on computers or mobile devices with your subscription login information.
- Assign pairs or partner groups of students to read the stories and compare what they learned.
- Print the comprehension quizzes at the end of each story and use them to assess comprehension in your group.
- *Read to Know* is formatted for iPads, netbooks, and other mobile devices. It also works well with WYNN, Read&Write Gold, and other assistive reading technology programs.
- Structure the Essential Questions as writing assignments or in-class debates to hone expression and critical thinking skills.

And remember...

A single subscription to *Read to Know* is a site license for your entire school – so share it with your colleagues! Your one user name and password allows multiple students to read it on netbooks, computers, iPads or other tablets and devices.

Also, make sure you are signed up for the *Read to Know* preview email. This weekly bulletin informs subscribers of the next week's stories, as well as important announcements. If you are not signed up, email us at ncpreview@newscurrents.com and we'll add you to the list.