The Week at a Glance

4 Afghan peace talks crumble  News  Nearly a year of negotiations to end the war in Afghanistan collapsed this week after President Trump canceled plans for a secret meeting with Taliban and Afghan government leaders at Camp David.

7 Charleston, S.C.: Challenger No. 3  News  Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford became the most prominent Republican to challenge President Trump for the 2020 nomination.

11 Videogames and violence  Briefing  Recent mass shooters gunned for “high scores” in video games. How violent are today’s video games, and are they partially to blame for recent gun violence?

22 Gun control: Walmart takes a stand  Opinion  Walmart, the nation’s largest retailer, announced that it will stop selling ammunition for handguns and assault-style rifles. The National Rifle Association was not happy with this decision.

22 Mystery illness: An e-cig reckoning  Opinion  Six people have died since August from a mysterious vaping-induced lung illness.

BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Driving racists out of conservatism PAGE 12
1. What do you think the article is about, based on its title?
2. What do you think the columnist means by the following quote from the article: “The Right needs to create a ‘conservative ecosystem that doesn’t welcome racists’”? What recommendations are made in the article for how to do this?
3. Who is most likely to be attracted to the messages of the alt-right, and why?

YouTube flouted kids’ ad rules PAGE 20
1. According to the article, why is Google paying a $170 million fine?
2. Why do you think there are specific rules about advertising to children?
3. What is personalized ad targeting, and why do you think it’s prohibited in media directed at children?
4. Have you ever purchased something because of an ad you saw while watching television or online content? If so, what and why?

There is no ‘gay gene’ to predict sexuality PAGE 24
1. What did the largest-ever study into the link between sexuality and genetics reveal?
2. What methodology was used in the study?
3. According to the article, what percentage of same-sex behavior is driven by genetics?
4. Why do you think that researchers wanted to learn more about the link between sexuality and genetics?

FEATURE OF THE WEEK: Cover

1. Describe what you see in the illustration on this week’s cover.
2. What do you think the article is about, based on the headline?
3. What do you think the illustrator’s point of view is on the story, based on the illustration?
4. How does the illustrator use exaggeration to illustrate his or her point of view?
### VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION
- vaping, syndrome, inflammation, bootleg, diluted, acetate, scaremongering, unregulated, banning, unlawfully
- executive, judicial, legislative, balance, checks, separation of powers

### DISCUSSION
**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1:**
Based on the article, “Gun Control: Walmart Takes a Stand” (p. 22)

**1.** Which constitutional amendment relates to gun control, and how do you interpret the framers’ words in the amendment?

**2.** Why do you think conservative lawmakers are blocking additional gun control if most Americans want stricter gun laws?

**3.** What people and groups likely support Walmart’s decision, and which people and groups likely oppose it?

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2:**
Based on the article, “Mystery Illness: An e-cig reckoning” (p. 22)

**1.** Why do you think e-cigarettes are so popular with teens?

**2.** Why is it important for scientists and researchers to learn more about the impact of e-cigarettes?

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #3:**
Based on an article of students’ choosing

**1.** Do you think the separation of powers between different branches of government, as outlined in the Constitution, is still relevant?

**2.** What are the risks of one branch having too much power?

### ACTIVITY
**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1:**
1. Write these two quotes on the board: (1) “We have a long heritage as a company serving responsible hunters and sportsmen and women, and we're going to continue doing so.” Doug McMillan, Walmart Chief Executive Officer; and (2) “The strongest defense of freedom has always been our free-market economy” and that “is shameful to see Walmart succumb to the pressure of the anti gun elites.” The National Rifle Association. Ask students if they know which news story quotes relate to. If not, invite them to guess.

2. Ask students to read and annotate the article. Challenge student groups to summarize the decision that Walmart made, at least three causes of that decision and at least three effects of that decision. Effects can be positive or negative. Direct each group to pair up with another group to share their answers. Challenge them to reach consensus on the three most significant causes and the three most significant effects. Share out answers.

3. Challenge students to brainstorm all of the different people and groups that could somehow be held responsible for gun violence in the U.S. They could include the shooters, political leaders, gun manufacturers, stores that sell guns and ammunition, the National Rifle Association, or others. Further challenge student groups to rank those people or groups to identify the three people or groups that are most responsible. Invite groups to share where stories like Walmart fall into that ranking.

4. In addition to the quotes above, challenge student groups to find at least three additional quotes that support Walmart’s decision and three additional quotes that oppose it. Write quotes on separate sticky notes and hang the notes on a wall. Direct students to review the quotes and select the one quote that most aligns with their opinion on this story. Share and explain answers.

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2:**
1. Lay four sheets of butcher paper in different areas of the room, each with one of the following phrases in the middle: impact to teens, impact to health risks, impact to community, and impact to the economy. Invite student groups to travel from paper to paper and write anything they know or any questions they have about the phrase on the papers relate to e-cigarettes.

2. Direct students to summarize the information on each paper and draw conclusions about any patterns or questions.

3. Invite students to read and annotate the article and add any relevant information to their chart papers.

4. Challenge students to research and use evidence to support one of the following quotes from the article: (1) “Regulating vaping shouldn’t come at the expense of the millions of people who have chosen to vape rather than smoke.” (2) “Youth vaping is its own health crisis.” (3) “The good news is that a federal judge recently green-lighted an FDA safety review of e-cigarettes.” and (4) “Vapers beware.”

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #3:**

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**EXTENSION**
- Encourage students to read Walmart’s gun policy.
- Invite students to design their own ad campaigns to persuade teens not to use e-cigarettes.
- Ask students if they know which news story quotes relate to. If not, invite them to guess.
- Further challenge student groups to rank those people or groups to identify the three people or groups that are most important. Invite groups to share where stories like Walmart fall into that ranking.
- Challenge students to research and use evidence to support one of the following quotes from the article: (1) “Regulating vaping shouldn’t come at the expense of the millions of people who have chosen to vape rather than smoke.” (2) “Youth vaping is its own health crisis.” (3) “The good news is that a federal judge recently green-lighted an FDA safety review of e-cigarettes.” and (4) “Vapers beware.”

- Hang five signs in different corners of the room, each with one of the following words/phrases on it: judicial, executive, legislative, checks, separation of powers.

- Invite student groups to select one article and use the information to come at the expense of the millions of people who have chosen to vape rather than smoke.” (2) “Youth vaping is its own health crisis.” (3) “The good news is that a federal judge recently green-lighted an FDA safety review of e-cigarettes.” and (4) “Vapers beware.”

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