# The Week at a Glance

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<td>President Trump hailed the killing of ISIS leader and founder Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a U.S. Special Forces raid in northwest Syria as the biggest-ever victory in the war on terror, even as American military leaders warned that the fight against the terrorist network remains unfinished.</td>
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<td>Raleigh, N.C. Redrawing the map</td>
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<td>Alarmed by former Vice President Joe Biden’s “lackluster” debate performances and doubtful that Sen. Elizabeth Warren’s embrace of Medicare for All and other leftist policies can win over swing voters, Democratic donors and strategists are “longing for a white knight” to jump into the presidential race.</td>
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<td>Tik Tok: Teen app infiltrates the U.S.</td>
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<td>The world’s fastest-growing social network, TikTok, is the latest powerful platform to draw the ire of U.S. lawmakers, said Tony Romm and Drew Harwell in <em>The Washington Post</em>.</td>
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## BRIEFLY: Quick Questions & Ideas To Engage Students

Please don't call me ‘Latinx’

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1. What is Latinx, and why do some activists feel this term should be used to describe all people with Hispanic heritage?
2. What evidence is presented in the article to support the use of the term Latinx, and what evidence is used to reject it?
3. What do you think the author means by the term, “worksplaining”?
4. What is your opinion on this debate?

Booing the president: Was it justified?

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1. What do you think the article is about, based on its headline?
2. Why do you think President Trump is the only president since William Taft in 1910 not to throw out a ceremonial first pitch at a Major League Baseball game?
3. How do you interpret this quote from the article: “If Donald Trump remakes all of us in his image, no matter who takes the White House in 2020, he will have won.”
4. How would you answer the question in the article’s headline?

Schools intensify surveillance

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1. What is the Children’s Protection Act, and what harmful content do you think it is monitoring?
2. According to the article, why have schools begun monitoring emails and documents of millions of students?
3. What do you think is the reason for this monitoring? Do you think it’s justified?
4. Do you know what, if at all, your school district does to monitor your emails and documents? If not, how can you find out?

## FEATURE OF THE WEEK: Cover

Invite students to look at this week’s cover and answer the questions.

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 based on the illustration?
4. How does the illustrator use symbolism to illustrate his or her point of view?
Based on the article, "Looking for a 'white knight'" (p. 4)

**VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION**

whispering, caliphate, barbarity, fanatics, routed, decisive, remnants, impulsive, surveillance, drawdown, resurgence

Who was Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and why was his death so significant?

**DISCUSSION**

1. Why do experts doubt that Mr. al-Baghdadi’s death will bring an end to the Islamic State’s efforts to spread terrorism and fear?
2. What role do you think the United States should play going forward in trying to defeat ISIS in Syria and elsewhere?

**ACTIVITY**

1. Hang four signs around the room, each with one of the following words/phrases written on it: (1) Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi; (2) ISIS; (3) American troops in Syria; and (4) Kurdish forces in Syria. Direct students to travel around the room, writing anything they know or are curious about on each sign. Challenge them to include information about why each is in the news this week. Review signs and challenge students to identify how all four relate to one another.
2. Invite students to read the article to learn more about all four people/events and the relationships between them.
3. Challenge students to find Syria on a world map. Explain that, as they learned in the article, President Trump recently ordered the withdrawal of remaining American troops in Northern Syria and gave his endorsement of a Turkish operation that would sweep away American-backed forces near the border. Students can learn more here.
4. Explain that President Trump’s decision to withdraw troops from Syria is a controversial one. Challenge student groups to find three quotes that support President Trump’s decision and three quotes that oppose it. Further challenge them to find related evidence that supports each quote.
5. Invite each group to pair up with another group to compare quotes and evidence. Challenge them to reach consensus, if possible, on the quote and supporting evidence that most strongly supports or opposes President Trump’s decision.

**EXTENSION**

Invite students to watch President Trump’s announcement on the death of al-Baghdadi.

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #1**

Based on the article, “The impact of al-Baghdadi’s death” (p. 4)

**VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION**

partisan, gerrymandering, legislature, drafters

What did a state court rule this week about North Carolina’s congressional districts?

**DISCUSSION**

1. How does gerrymandering affect our electoral process?
2. Do you think gerrymandering is a problem? Explain your answer.

**ACTIVITY**

3. Explain that every 10 years, after the population is figured through the Census, most states redraw their legislative and congressional districts to ensure that each one has roughly the same number of people. In some states, the political party in power redraws those district lines to give them a political advantage. This is known as gerrymandering. They can learn more about gerrymandering here.
4. Invite students to read the article and summarize why North Carolina’s GOP-drawn congressional districts can’t be used in the 2020 election. Then, challenge them to define what the state panel meant when it said that North Carolina’s GOP-drawn congressional districts “undermined the will of the people.”

**EXTENSION**

Invite students to research how their own state is districted and to determine if they think the districting gives one political party an advantage.

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #2**

Based on the article “Raleigh, N.C.: Redrawing the map” (p. 7)

**VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION**

lackluster, white knight, centrist, swing voters, moderates, standard-bearer, progressive, shunted, unicorn candidates, electoral

According to the article, why are Democrats asking, “Is there anybody else” related to the 2020 presidential race?

**DISCUSSION**

1. What qualities do you think are most important for a presidential candidate to have?
2. What lessons should candidates for the 2020 presidential election take from the 2016 election?

**ACTIVITY**

3. Challenge student groups to answer the following questions: How many congressional districts does your state have? Which state has the highest number of congressional districts? How many congressional districts are there in total? How are the number of congressional districts for each state determined? Invite groups to present their guesses, and then go here to learn the correct answers.
4. Explain that the framers of the constitution wanted citizens to be equally represented in congress and didn’t want larger states to have more power than others. So they determined that each state would have at least one representative and that representation would be determined by “adding to the whole Number of free Persons” which eventually became what we know now as the Census. They can read direct text from the constitution here.
5. Explain that every 10 years, after the population is figured through the Census, most states redraw their legislative and congressional districts to ensure that each one has roughly the same number of people. In some states, the political party in power redraws those district lines to give them a political advantage. This is known as gerrymandering. They can learn more about gerrymandering here.
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**EXTENSION**

Invite students to watch President Trump’s announcement on the death of al-Baghdadi.

**MAIN ACTIVITY OF THE WEEK #3**

Based on the article “Looking for a ‘white knight’” (p. 17)

**VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION**

According to the article, why are Democrats asking, “Is there anybody else” related to the 2020 presidential race?

**DISCUSSION**

1. What qualities do you think are most important for a presidential candidate to have?
2. What lessons should candidates for the 2020 presidential election take from the 2016 election?

**ACTIVITY**

1. Write the article’s headline on the board, and challenge students to guess what they think the article is about. What is a “white knight,” and why would Democrats need one?
2. Invite students to read and annotate the article and list all of the Democratic candidates who are mentioned. Divide candidates up among small research groups. Challenge each group to conduct research to create a personal and political profile of its candidate that includes age, birthplace, family information, education, political experience, position on five key issues, overall philosophy, three quotes from the candidate, three quotes from others that support the candidate, three quotes from others that oppose the candidate, any current public opinion/polling data, and three questions they would like to ask the candidate.
3. Invite groups to apply the information they researched into a political SWOT analysis. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. Strengths and weaknesses are internal and opportunities and threats are external. Invite students to use their research to conduct a SWOT analysis of their candidate as it relates to a potential run for president in 2020.
4. Based on their SWOT analysis, challenge groups to determine whether they believe their candidate can be a viable and potentially winning candidate for the democratic nomination and the general election and/or what advice they would give their candidate to give Democratic voters confidence about his/her candidacy.

**EXTENSION**

Invite students to create a want ad for the ideal 2020 presidential candidate. Their want ad should include the most important credentials for the candidate with the greatest chance of winning their party’s nomination and the general election.

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