

The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

In this issue we are taking a deep dive into the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and his vision for the world. Students will also have the opportunity to debate the issue of whether or not homework should be eliminated. Finally, readers will gain an understanding of the events that unfolded at the US Capitol Building.



This week at a glance

Page	Big news	Big question	Article type
2	US Capitol Building Attacked	Who is Eugene Goodman? Why is he considered a hero officer? Be sure to explain your response.	News
4	Two New US Senators From Georgia Are Elected	Who is Stacey Abrams? How did she turn her pain into power? Be sure to explain your response.	News
8	Should Homework Be Eliminated	Do you think homework should be eliminated? Be sure to explain your opinion.	National News
12	He Dreamed of an Equal World	Describe the illustration on this week's cover. What story does the cover tell? Be sure to explain your response.	All About
20	Museum Displays Cool Cars	Describe three classic American cars. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.	Arts & Entertainment

THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE:

SOME SAY EXTRA WORK AFTER SCHOOL MAKES A DIFFERENCE. OTHERS ARGUE IT'S A WASTE OF TIME.

YES - kids need downtime | **NO** - homework actually helps you

ACTIVITY:

1. Have the class participate in a whole class vote for or against homework and document the results.
2. Invite students to watch a student led Ted Talk entitled [Homework Overload](#). Encourage students to participate in a class discussion about what they heard in the Ted Talk and about how they feel about homework.
3. Invite students to create a three panel brochure explaining their argument.
4. Each panel of the brochure should include a reason, a paragraph explaining the reason, and a visual.
5. Encourage students to conduct further research if necessary.

Have your students visit theweekjunior.com/polls to vote. We'll publish the results next week.

What you need to know?

- US students spend an average of 6.1 hours a week on homework. Kids in Finland, whose education system is ranked higher than ours, have less than half as much homework.
- In elementary school, research hasn't shown that time spent on homework affects achievement. In middle and high school, homework has a slight positive effect on test scores.
- In 2017, a Florida school district banned homework and required 20 minutes of daily reading instead.

NOTES

This week's big news

US Capitol Building Attacked

Cover and page 2

Lets Discuss

1. Which branches of government gathered on January, 6, 2021? Why did they gather? Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response
2. According to the article, President Trump encouraged his supporters to march to the Capitol. Describe what happened at the Capitol Building. Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
3. Do you think it was important for Twitter and Facebook to ban President Trump? Be sure to explain your response.

Vocabulary

Capitol Building
25th Amendment
Impeachment

TWJ Kids take action

In school or remote

Invite student to write a newspaper article about the attack on the US Capitol. The article should contain the following components. **A)** Headline - capture the reader's interest. **B)** Storyline - What is the main idea? **C)** Facts - Explain who, what, where, why, and how. **D)** Details - provide more details about the facts. **E)** Conclusion - provide your reader's with something to think about.

Two New US Senators From Georgia Are Elected

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Lets Discuss

1. Why did Georgia hold a special election on January 5th?
Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
2. Explain why Reverend Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff are historic wins.
Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.
3. What do the results of the senate race mean for the Democrats? Republicans?
Be sure to use evidence from the text to support your response.

Vocabulary

Senator
Minority Leader
Majority Leader

TWJ Kids take action

In school or remote

Invite student to create a biography poster for either Senator Warnock or Senator Ossoff. Each poster should display the following information: name of the senator, early life, accomplishments, policies, quotes stated by the senator, interesting facts, three adjectives to describe the senator, and three visuals.

NOTES

Last Week's Poll:

In our last debate, we asked if schools should still have snow days now that kids can learn remotely. Most of you voted for the magic of snow days.

Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students to watch the short film [Our Friend Martin](#). This kid-friendly video details the life of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. As a whole group or in breakout rooms, have students engage in self-reflection questions.

1. What is the message of Our Friend Martin?
2. If you had a chance to ask a character in this film a question, what would it be?
3. What did you learn from this film?

Brain Booster

After viewing the film, Our Friend Martin, write a four paragraph essay answering the following questions.

1. Paragraph 1:

Summarize Our Friend Martin

2. **Paragraph 2:** Identify three key character traits of Martin Luther King Jr. and explain why you chose them. Provide examples from the film.

3. **Paragraph 3:** Did anything that happened in this movie remind you of something that occurred in your own life or that you have seen happen to others?

4. **Paragraph 4:** What did you learn from Our Friend Martin? What can you do in your school or community to make a change in the world?