

# The Week Junior Teacher's Guide

**In this issue we will** learn about how the Biden administration immediately got to work after being sworn in and what the top priorities are for America. Students will have the opportunity to debate the issue of whether or not college athletes should be paid. Finally, discover the importance of Black History Month and how it started.



## This week at a glance

Page	Big news	Big question	Article type
2	Biden administration begins work	If you were President Biden or Vice President Harris, what important issue would you address first? Be sure to explain your response.	Big News
4	Popular standardized test makes big changes	Do you think standardized tests should be eliminated? Be sure to explain your opinion.	National News
5	Amanda Gorman recites inauguration poem	Write a short summary about what you learned about Amanda Gorman's life story.	National News
12	Making sure every story is told	Identify 4 Black Americans from the article. Explain how each of them made history.	All About
22	Star Wars gaming world expands	What is the main idea of the article? What details tell more about the main idea?	On Screen

## THIS WEEK'S BIG DEBATE: SOME SAY STUDENT ATHLETES DESERVE A CUT OF THE MILLIONS MADE IN COLLEGE SPORTS

**YES** — paying athletes would ruin the game | **NO** — college athletes earn that money

### ACTIVITY:

- Invite student pairs to complete a persuasive letter prewriting activity.
  - What is the purpose for writing my persuasive letter?
  - Who am I trying to persuade?
  - Write an introduction.
  - Provide three reasons for or against the argument.
  - Provide details/examples to support each reason.
  - Write a conclusion.
- Have each pair use the prewriting activity to write a five-paragraph persuasive letter.
- Finally, invite student pairs to read their persuasive letters to the class.

Have your students visit [theweekjunior.com/polls](https://theweekjunior.com/polls) to vote. We'll publish the results next week.

## What you need to know?

- The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) oversees college sports in the US. Its mission is "to promote safety, excellence, and physical and mental well-being for student athletes."
- The NCAA sets rules for its 1,098 member colleges and universities. Student athletes can receive scholarships, but they cannot be paid directly for participating in sports.
- In 2017, the NCAA had close to \$1.1 billion in annual revenue.

## NOTES

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## This week's big news

### Biden administration begins work

*Cover and page 2*

#### Let's Discuss

1. What evidence from the text proves that President Biden is determined to help the American people?
2. What is an executive order? Be sure to use evidence from the text to explain your response.
3. According to the article, President Biden's top priorities are the pandemic and the economy. Explain his plan to address the pandemic and rebuild the economy.

#### Vocabulary

Executive order  
Oath  
Paris climate accord

#### TWJ Kids take action

*In school or remote*

Imagine you are a White House correspondent attending a press briefing. Write five detailed questions that you would ask President Biden or Vice President Harris.

### Popular standardized test makes big changes

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#### Let's Discuss

1. What is the SAT? Explain why fewer students took the SAT in 2020.
2. Identify two reasons why the SAT and the ACT should be eliminated.
3. Why are tests less important? Be sure to use evidence from the text to explain your response.

#### Vocabulary

College Board  
Lawsuit  
Discriminate

#### TWJ Kids take action

*In school or remote*

Create a new illustration and title for this article.

### Last Week's Poll:

Last week we asked you if winter is better than summer. You told us you like both seasons! More of you love summer, but nearly half prefer winter.

### Virtual Activity

Share your screen and invite students to listen to Amanda Gorman recite "[The Hill We Climb](#)". Have the students participate in a class discussion by answering the following questions: **A)** What is the message of the poem? **B)** What emotions did the poem bring up for you? **C)** Gorman's final lines state, "There is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it." Do you agree with this? Why or why not?

### Brain Booster

1. You are a board game manufacturer and you have been given the task of creating a board game that reviews everything that students learned from this issue of The Week Junior.
2. Make your board game neat, colorful, and creative.
3. Create at least 15 questions and answers for your game that relate to the articles in this issue.
4. Write directions for your game

#### NOTES

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