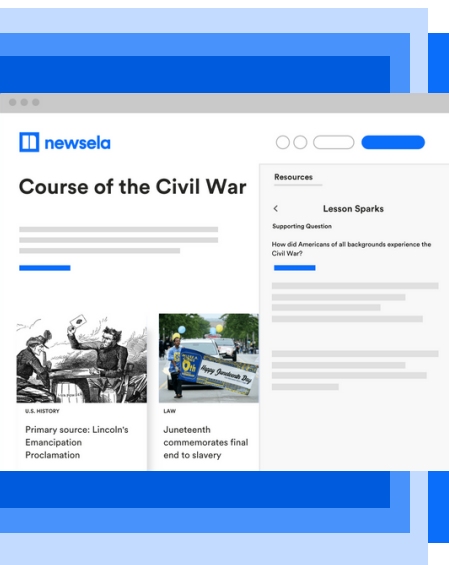




# Five ways to build teacher confidence in the shift towards inquiry

Meet teachers where they are as they're making the shift.

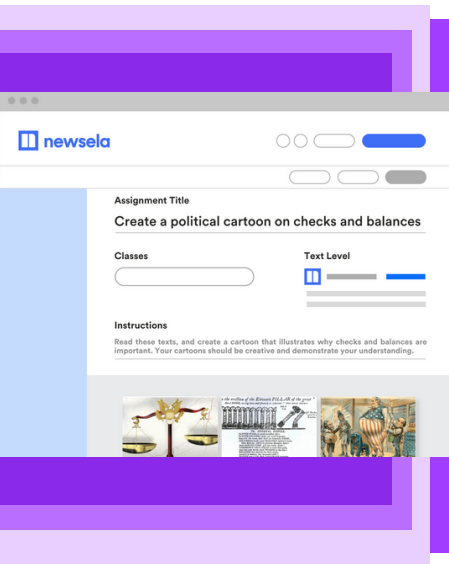


## Provide teachers with ready-to-go curations

There's a spectrum of teacher readiness when it comes to inquiry. Meet teachers where they are by providing flexible, structured resources with multiple content types included. Ensure these curations start with compelling questions that are based on standards and offer opportunities for students to draw their own conclusions based on primary sources.

### NEWSELA TIP:

*Newsela Social Studies collections center around compelling & supporting questions, and include content genres like primary sources, explainer articles, and current events for students to analyze.*



## Build in opportunities for student choice and agency

Successful inquiry-based instruction is dependent on students taking agency in their own learning. This can take shape in many ways, including project-based learning and opportunities for student choice in what they read. Equip teachers with instructional materials that explicitly support student choice and agency, so that they can easily incorporate this into their practice and engage students more deeply.

### NEWSELA TIP:

*Use the Social Studies Projects and Cornerstone Activities collection for a selection of activities like writing essays and articles, creating social media profiles, holding mock trials, making multimedia presentations, and more.*

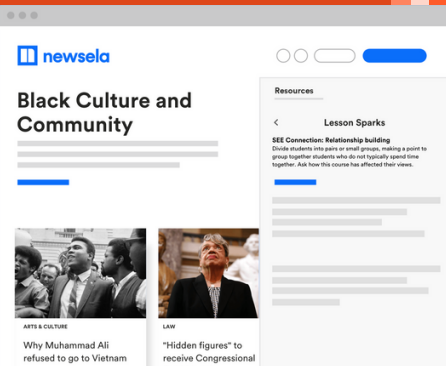


## Enable differentiation at scale for all learners

Inquiry requires students to conduct text-based analysis and formulate their own arguments based on those texts. However, this can be challenging for students who are not able to access these texts and need additional scaffolds for comprehension. Equip teachers with content that is flexible while maintaining grade level rigor so they can meet the needs of all of their students at scale.

### NEWSELA TIP:

*Nonfiction texts on Newsela are published at 5 reading levels, so that all students can access grade-level concepts and no one is left out of discussions. Teachers can annotate texts to provide additional scaffolds for students that need them.*

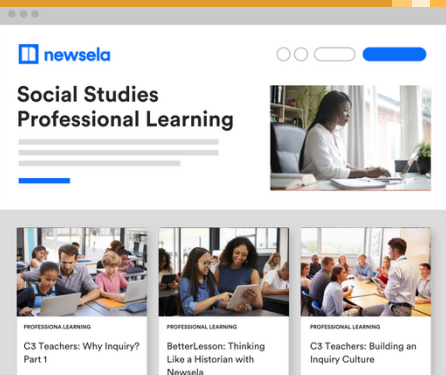


## Embed whole child supports into instructional materials

Sometimes inquiry-based instruction can lead to challenging conversations. Resources should include embedded whole child supports to help teachers and students navigate these conversations successfully. In particular, students need to build the skills to communicate clearly and respectfully agree and disagree. As educators, we must consider who our students are, and what experiences they're bringing to our classrooms.

### NEWSELA TIP:

*Direct teachers towards collections with embedded whole child supports like the Black U.S. History collection. Infuse more empathy into classrooms with collections like A Mile in Our Shoes which focus on diverse perspectives.*



## Equip teachers with a variety of professional learning resources

Provide time and professional learning opportunities to support teachers in becoming more comfortable with the ambiguity that inquiry requires, guiding students in rethinking history, and supporting students with varied needs. To account for different learning styles and schedules, offer both asynchronous and synchronous options.

### NEWSELA TIP:

*Schools and districts with PD Pass have access to bite-sized learning opportunities for social studies teachers. In addition, we can host tailored, live sessions covering topics like culturally responsive pedagogy and differentiating instruction.*



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