

TIPS:

Assignments, Annotations & Write Prompts

Creating Assignments on Newsela

CREATING AN ASSIGNMENT

1. Choose an article or Text Set in Newsela to assign
2. Click “Assign” in the top-right corner
3. Select a class from the drop-down menu
4. Name your assignment and/or provide instructions
5. Click “Assign”

VIEWING STUDENT WORK

1. Click on the “Binder” in the top-right corner
2. Once in the Binder, click on the “Assignments” tab on the top
3. Click on the assignment you want to view
4. View student work by scrolling down. You will be able to see student data including, time spent on the article, article level, quiz score, student’s Write Prompt and the number of annotations.

ASSIGNMENT TIPS

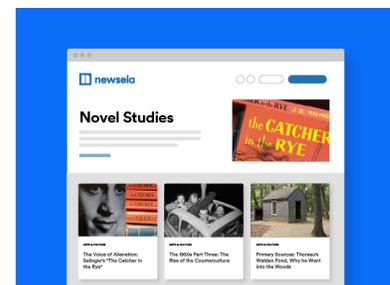
1. Make your expectations clear to students by specifying what they should annotate in the instructions.
2. List the actions you would like students to complete in the order that you would like to see them accomplished.
For example:
 - a. Read and highlight the main idea of each section.
 - b. Annotate to explain the main idea in your own words

Unassigning

- Choose the assignment that you would like to unassign.
- Click “Delete” from the top right corner
- Confirm you want to delete and unassign the assignment by selecting “Yes, Delete”

Level Control

- When creating an assignment, you have the option to control the level that students will view the article.
- Click “Adjust Level” in the assignment screen
- Select the level you would like presented to students.
- Confirm the level control by clicking “Lock Selection”
- Students can change the level after submitting the quiz for the locked level.



- c. Complete the Write prompt

Annotating on Newsela

ANNOTATING ARTICLES ON NEWSELA

1. Click and drag your cursor over the text you wish to highlight.
2. The Annotator tool will appear.
3. Choose one of the colors provided to highlight the text.
4. Type your annotation in the “Write something for your students” field.
5. Select “Share” to publish your annotation for your students to see.
6. Annotations are visible to any student that opens the article on that particular level you placed the annotation.

ANNOTATION TIPS & TRICKS

1. Ways for teachers to use the annotation tool:
 - a. Embed questions into the text that target specific skills or understandings
 - b. Embed vocabulary supports
 - c. Check for understanding of a day’s objective
 - d. Include links to outside resources
2. Ways for students to use the annotation tool:
 - a. Highlight the central idea of a paragraph in one color and supporting details in another.
 - b. Create a set of color coding expectations that you agree upon as a class. For example:

-  Highlight new or difficult vocabulary
-  Highlight a claim
-  Highlight evidence to support the claim
-  Highlight a counterclaim

Editing an Annotation

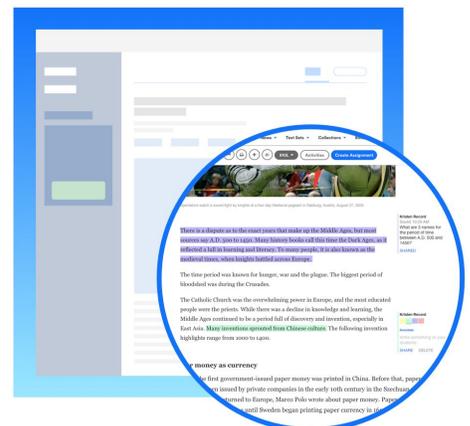
- Navigate to the annotation you wish to edit
- Click the highlighted text or on the annotation itself.
- Edit the text in the annotation box. It will automatically save.

Unsharing an Annotation

- Navigate to the annotation you wish to unshare
- Click the highlighted text or the annotation itself
- Select “Unshare”

Deleting an Annotation

- Navigate to the annotation you wish to delete
- Click the highlighted text or the annotation itself
- Select “Delete”



Newsela's Write Prompt

Every article on Newsela includes a Write Prompt that is designed to focus on developing specific skills across ELA, Science and Social Studies

EDITING THE WRITE PROMPT

1. Choose an article in Newsela
2. Click "Activities" in the top right-hand corner
3. Select "Write" from the activity list
4. Click "Edit"
5. Click into the write prompt text field and edit the prompt as you wish
6. Select "Save". Your custom write prompt will be visible to students when they click "Activities" while in the article.

WRITE PROMPT TIPS & TRICKS

1. Include sentence frames in your Write Prompts to assist students in using the target language.
2. Include Write Prompts similar to those that students will respond to on upcoming assignments and exams.
3. Use your Write Prompts to check student understanding of important concepts aligned to your curriculum.
4. Link outside resources in your Write Prompt to support student writing. For longer or collaborative writing responses, try a Google Doc. To have students go beyond writing, try including links to video resources like Flipgrid.

Sample Writing Prompts

For an article where you have students identifying the 5 Ws (who, what, when, where, why), change the write prompt to:

- Write a summary of the article answering the 5 Ws.

When trying to incorporate close reading strategies, change the write prompt to:

- Write down the question you are most curious about. Who might have an answer to your answer?

For an article where you want students to analyze a specific quote from an author, article or primary source, change the write prompt to:

- Answer the following questions about the quote:

Go to [Support.newsela.com](https://support.newsela.com) to find instructions on how to use all Newsela features.

