Questions for Classroom Discussion

Not All News is "Good" News

- **What is "news," and why is it so important for students to have an understanding of the definition?**

⇒ Consider the definition of "news" from a journalistic standpoint, which is a report or story that is true (and has been verified) and will be of interest to the public
⇒ Consider various news sources and the goal of each outlet, including TV networks (Fox News, CNN, etc.), newspapers and magazines, and Social Media sites (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube… and new sites are being created all of the time)
⇒ Consider how quickly news has changed in recent years due to technology, and how it has become instant and constant, and how this has an impact on the definition of "news"

- **Should schools teach students how to find news and distinguish reliable news from "fake" news?**

⇒ Consider that "news" is all around us, whether we're watching TV, surfing the internet, or even engaging in Social Media
⇒ Consider that "fake news" can be very hard to distinguish (it often looks like a legitimate news story), but it can have real consequences in shaping opinions or motivating people to act
⇒ Consider that teachers are already overwhelmed with curriculum, so schools might not be the best setting for students to learn about the news (on the other hand, current events and the news cycle can be used to help the teacher and make learning more engaging and effective)

- **What are the most important things that students should know about the "news"?**

⇒ Consider the steps students can take to verify a news story, as well as the warning signs that exist with "fake" news (lack of sources, biased author, lack of editing, etc.)
⇒ Consider that students are heavily engaged in Social Media, which is one of the leading sources of "fake" news
⇒ Consider how the instant and constant news cycle thrives on people who watch, click, and read certain "news" stories… this means that intentional steps are being taken to make people want to tune in, even if news is being exaggerated, twisted, or just made up