

# Newsela

## Overview

Resource Type	Subjects	NRS Level(s)
Online	Reading, ESL	ABE 2-6 ESL 3-6

## Summary

### General Information

Newsela is an instructional content platform that was designed to improve reading skills of students in grades 2-12. It has an extensive library of nonfiction texts across several subject areas, including science, social studies, ELA and math. The platform will adjust students' reading levels based on their performance. It has multiple choice quizzes and customizable writing prompts to strengthen student comprehension. Newsela Lite is the free version of Newsela. The paid version is Newsela Essentials. Although time can be tracked within the free version, there are significantly more content options and administrative features using Newsela Essentials. There are also specific subject content areas of Newsela ELA, Newsela Science, and Newsela Social Studies.

Newsela is approved for both ABE/ASE and ESL students and has several features that teachers could employ to support language learners or to meet the needs of a highly differentiated classroom. These features include the ability to use Newsela's read aloud feature, annotate text with key word definitions, or adjust the lexile level of reading passages. Because Newsela's articles are drawn from real news sources, they serve as a strong source of authentic reading materials for English Language Learners; however, since Newsela does not explicitly teach English reading strategies, it is best suited for ELLs with the ability to read independently.

### Technology Requirements

The website works with the latest version of Google Chrome, Edge, Firefox, Opera, and Safari 11+. The app also supports iOS 11 and greater.

## Mobile Accessibility

An app exists for iOS (11+). No app currently exists for Androids.

## Logistics

Teachers can individualize student assignments or assign them to groups/classes. Only one article can be assigned at a time with the free version, whereas Newsela Essentials gives a teacher the ability to assign multiple articles at once.

## Reports

Progress reports for individuals and classes are available through Newsela Essentials. Additionally, there are time on task reports that are customizable by date available through Newsela Essentials. The free version has very limited reporting capabilities.

## Instruction

The curriculum is aligned to relevant adult education content such as CCRS, workplace, and ELPS. The lessons are engaging and encourage students to be more than passive readers. Additionally, lessons provide formative assessment opportunities for learners to ensure they are learning as they progress through lessons. The summative assessment is happening behind the scenes and reading levels are adjusted according to student successes and struggles. Newsela quizzes are aligned to state educational standards.

## Student Interface

In Newsela Essentials, students can easily find and access their lessons. They can also see what they've worked on, and they can tell whether they've mastered the content. Adults with basic tech abilities will be able to fully utilize the curriculum with minimal training. Technical support is available. Content and contexts are designed to benefit adults as the articles cover a wide range of current events across many subjects (e.g., a math article might highlight how math is used in the workplace). The available science, social studies, math, and ELA articles are regularly updated, so students/teachers can typically find reading material of interest to students.

## Teacher Interface

Using Newsela Essentials, teachers can assign articles to individual students or classes. They can also monitor what students worked on and when and identify areas where students need assistance. In addition, teachers can customize the pre-programmed questions that follow the readings.

## Accessibility Features

Online platforms may include different accessibility features to aid learners. The publisher has provided a [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template](#) to help you review the features offered. Information that may help you understand the VPAT is available in our [informational document](#).

You may also contact the publisher's sales representative or customer support.