

WebQuest Activity
“Til Further Notice”
Seth Glier



Seth Glier’s song, “Til Further Notice” is about Covid-19, but also the hope that we can find during difficult times. In this activity, students will perform a WebQuest to search for articles about a recent news event that they find hopeful.

1) Ask students why it’s important to be hopeful during difficult times. Put them into small groups. Possible brainstorming questions may be:

1. Is it difficult for you to feel hopeful during difficult times?
2. Can you describe an example of when you felt hope during a difficult time?
3. Do you think that newspapers typically write about positive or negative news events? Why?
4. How can we remain hopeful during difficult times?

2) Share with students some news stories that have made you feel hopeful in the past. Then, tell students you would like them to find an article in English about Covid-19 (or another recent news event) that makes them feel hopeful. (This can be an individual or pair activity, and students can use cell phones, tablets, or computers.)

3) Give students reputable news sources to search. Here are some examples. You may also give your own.

- <https://www.voanews.com/>
- <https://learningenglish.voanews.com/> (for lower-level students)
- <https://www.npr.org/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/>

4) Give students time in class to search for a news article and help when needed.

5) After students find their articles, you should assess their understanding of the article in some way. Here are some example activities:

1. Write a summary of the news article.
2. Write a journal entry with their reaction to the news article.
3. Give a summary of the news article in small groups.
4. Create an audio or video explaining the main points of the article and why they chose it. Share the audio or video clips online (with Padlet or Flipgrid or a discussion board) and ask students to comment on each other’s clips.
5. Write a reaction letter about the article to send to the newspaper.



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Intermediate/Advanced



Alternatively, for beginner students, you may find an appropriate article for students to read and discuss in class.



This activity is well-suited to online classes since majority of the activity takes place online.

Title of News Article:

Author(s): _____

Web Address: _____

I chose this article because...

Summary

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