

Lesson Planning Guide for Teachers (Sample)

Lesson Objective (topic to teach):	<i>News For You</i> issue May 5-11, 2021: “Guilty Verdicts Are Rare in Killings by Police” (website article image is attached below for reference purposes in this sample)			
Segment	What and How? Describe Activities	Materials	Multiple Intelligence	Time
1. Warm up and/or icebreakers Ask learners to sign in and take seats, welcome returning learners and meet newcomers.	Icebreaker: If you never aged, what age would you want to be for the rest of your life? Allow learners to answer or ask volunteers to share depending on class size.	Sign in sheet, pen, paper and pencils/pens for learners	intrapersonal	10 min.
2. Introduction How can I creatively introduce this topic? What do learners already know?	Ask learners what they know about the trial of police officer Derek Chauvin. Ask a few to share.	<i>News For You</i> teacher guide, <i>News For You</i> online	linguistic	5 min.
3. Listening and Speaking How will I ask learners to practice listening and speaking skills while teaching this topic?	Divide the class into pairs or small groups to share what they know about the story. Write on the white board the 5Ws of this news story and ask groups to discuss: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How based on what they already know about the story. Ask each group to choose a recorder. (15 min.) When time is up, the groups share what they gathered with the class. Write the information on the board as each group's recorder responds. (5 min.)	<i>News For You</i> article, white board, markers, eraser, paper, pens/pencils	Interpersonal, linguistic	20 min.
4. Writing What real-life writing skills are needed for this topic?	Hand out the K-W-L blank charts, one per learner (attached example below). Look at the pictures online associated with the story, listen to the captions describing the images. (5 min.) Read the title of the article: “Guilty Verdicts Are Rare in Killings by Police” Ask learners to write words or phrases of what they know (K), and what they want to learn (W). Learners should use the previous exercise and what they heard in the captions and title. (5-8 min.)	K-W-L blank charts (one per learner)	Spatial, kinesthetic	10 min.
5. Reading Which building block(s) of reading	(comprehension, vocabulary)	<i>News For You</i> article	linguistic	20 min

<p>will I focus on to teach this topic?</p>	<p>Before you read the article, tell learners to write down unfamiliar words in the learned column (L). Read aloud the article to the class or download and listen to the audio recording. Have learners read along. You can also ask for advanced learners to read sentences or paragraphs aloud.</p>			
<p>6. Writing What real-life writing skills are needed for this topic?</p>	<p>Ask learners to add anything else they learned from the article (L). (5 min)</p>	<p>K-W-L chart</p>	<p>linguistic</p>	<p>5 min.</p>
<p>7. Conclusion and Application Summarize the lesson. Ask learners to apply new knowledge to their own lives or a new situation.</p>	<p>Ask learners to voluntarily share what they learned by reading from the L column on the K-W-L chart. Check for any vocabulary that learners wrote down. Ask learners as many of the comprehension questions from the teacher guide as time permits (attached for reference). Check for understanding. See if learners can summarize the main points of the article.</p>	<p>K-W-L chart, <i>News For You</i> teacher guide</p>	<p>kinesthetic</p>	<p>15 min.</p>



People gather on April 20 at the place where George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis, Minnesota. They celebrated after former police officer Derek Chauvin was found guilty of killing Floyd. (THE ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Hear the whole story. Or, click on any sentence to hear that sentence.

CHANGE TEXT SIZE



0:00

0:00

The case against police officer Derek Chauvin seemed clear to many people.

Video showed him pressing his knee into the neck of George Floyd. He kept it there for more than nine minutes. That was after Floyd began **gasping** for air. He told Chauvin he could not breathe.

Many witnesses saw it happen. At his trial, medical experts said Chauvin's use of **force** killed Floyd. Other police officers **testified** against him.

Chauvin was found guilty April 20 on three charges of killing Floyd. The Black man had been stopped outside a grocery store in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Black Americans said the **jury's** verdict showed that justice could happen after killings by police.

But convictions do not happen very often.

Why “Guilty” Is Rare

The Washington Post tracks police shootings. The numbers show that police in the U.S. kill about 1,000 people each year. Most of the people have guns when they are killed. Most of the killings seem justified. That means they could be excused because officers felt that they or others were in danger.

Phil Stinson studies crime at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. He studies the arrests of police officers. His work shows that about 140 officers have been charged with murder or **manslaughter** since 2005. Only seven of them were found guilty.

There are reasons for this.

Police have a lot of legal freedom to use even deadly force. They often point to their training if they are accused of murder. They say they followed that training when they used deadly force.

Judges and juries also trust the police. They know their jobs are dangerous. They know officers often have to make quick choices about what to do in the middle of that danger.

In a trial, one or more jurors may not want to find an officer guilty, Stinson said.

“They just aren’t willing to judge a police officer for their on-duty acts of violence,” he said. That can happen even if there is video of the killing.

Making a Case

Experts said lawyers arguing the case against Chauvin seemed to know that.

“It may be hard for any of you to imagine a police officer doing something like this,” Steve Schleicher said to the jury. But he said policing was not on trial. He said what Chauvin did “was not policing.”

Medaria Arradondo is the Minneapolis police chief. He testified in the trial. He said Chauvin acted against his training and police culture. Other officers said the same.

The video was also a big part of the case. It was made by a 17-year-old girl who was at the store.

A judge is expected to announce Chauvin's **sentence** in June. Three other officers who aided Chauvin will go on trial in August.

SOURCES: THE WASHINGTON POST, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From the archive:

In Protests and Polls, Americans Say Police Departments Need to Change (/in-protests-and-polls-americans-say-police-departments-need-to-change) (6/24/2020)

Killing of George Floyd Reminds People of Crispus Attucks (/killing-of-george-floyd-reminds-people-of-crispus-attucks) (7/8/2020)

SHARE THIS

(http

COMMENTS (2)

Maria says:

May 06, 2021

When we are in danger, we call the police and really want them to protect us by any means. After this case, it will be logical for the police not to fight criminals... Let them live better and do what they want...

Vic & Mic says:

May 05, 2021

Why does not this article say how many policemen are killed every year protecting us from violence and murder ?!..In 2018 there were 144 policemen. In 2019 and 2020 there were many more. Unfortunately...

Guilty Verdicts Are Rare in Killings by Police

COMMON CORE / CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS STANDARD — RF.2: Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes)

READING LEVEL 4-6 | NATIONAL | PG. 1

Content Learning Objective

Learners will classify words by their number of syllables.

Before Reading

Ask learners what they know about the trial of police officer Derek Chauvin.

Check Comprehension

Encourage learners to answer in complete sentences.

1. At the trial for Derek Chauvin, what did medical experts say? What happened to Chauvin at the trial? (*They said Chauvin's use of force killed Floyd. He was found guilty of killing Floyd.*)
2. What did some Black Americans say the jury's verdict showed? (*They said it showed that justice could happen after killings by police.*)
3. How many people do police kill in the U.S. each year? What is involved with most killings? (*They kill about 1,000 people each year. Most of the people have guns when they are killed.*)
4. What is one reason that most police officers are not found guilty of the killings? (*Police have a lot of legal freedom to use deadly force. Most of the killings seem justified. Judges and juries also trust the police.*)
5. What is Chauvin's sentence? (*A judge is expected to announce his sentence in June.*)

Discussion Questions

1. Did you watch any of the trial of Derek Chauvin?
2. Have there been any recent problems with police in your area that have been on the news?
3. What do you think the police can do to have better relationships with local residents?

Syllable Extravaganza!

Find two or three words from the story to remind learners about syllables. For example, *judges* is two syllables, and *officers* is three syllables.

Have learners work alone or with a partner to write 10 words with two syllables and 10 words with three syllables, all from the story. Encourage learners to practice saying the words aloud to practice pronunciation or have them take turns sharing their words with the class to check their answers.

When everyone is finished, check learners' answers.

As a bonus, you can ask learners if there are any words in the story with more than three syllables. *Minneapolis, Minnesota, Americans, and University* would be correct answers.

Find more free suggestions for using the newspaper in the classroom at newreaderspress.com/teachers.

ANSWER KEY

Another "First in Flight" Moment Happens on Mars (3-4)

Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct responses.

Group in Albania Tries to Bring Back the Art of Weaving (4-5)

1. True 2. True 3. False. Older → Younger 4. False. weeks → months 5. True

Experts Say We Should Stop Using the Term "Tornado Alley" (4-6)

1. Possible answers: South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming 2. Florida 3. Answers will vary; the answers should be from the green states. 4. Answers will vary; the answers should be from the orange states. 5. Kansas and Texas

Boy Sews Bow Ties for Shelter Pets (3-4)

1. left 2. raises 3. sat 4. thought 5. flown

Coins Are Clues in Unsolved Case of Murderous 1600s Pirate (4-5)

1. c 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b

Australia's Latest Troubles: Floods, Swarms of Mice, and Warnings About Spiders (3-4)

1. a, d, e 2. b, c

KWL Chart

Article _____

K	W	L
What I already know about this topic	What I want to learn from this article	What I learned from this article