



Text Messaging for Safety

Teacher's Edition

Introduction

From natural disasters to terrorist attacks, our nation faces many threats. We must strive to be prepared, not scared in the face of such emergencies. In this project, students will research a threat facing your community and create a series of text messages to inform and guide the community through the emergency.

Overview

(Throughout this project, students should work in groups of four).

Week 1: A Prepared Community

Students will research the SafeAmerica and Ready.gov websites to find tips for emergency preparedness that are particular relevant to each of four groups: teens, parents, school administrators, and business owners. (This will take approximately 40 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 2: Today's Threats

Students explore USA TODAY and the Ready.gov website in order to identify threats that face their community. Each group identifies a single threat to focus on for the remainder of the project. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 3: Survey the Community

Students identify several facts about their threat and create a survey to determine what the community already knows about preparing for this type of emergency. Students poll various members of the community using their survey. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time and 30 minutes of homework time.)

Week 4: Compiling the Results

Students use surveys and graphs from an issue of USA TODAY as a model as they generate a graph of their own survey data and identify common misconceptions among the community. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 5: Composing Text Messages

Students use the survey data to draft four text messages that would be valuable to send to the entire community in the event of their emergency as well as two text messages that would be targeted to each of teens, parents, school administrators, and business owners. (This will take approximately 30 minutes of in-class time.)

Week 6: Presenting the Results

Students create a brief, engaging presentation, which communicates their threat, the survey results, and the best text messages they created. (Preparing and presenting may take two or three class periods.)



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Project Rubric

Points	Survey	Text Messages	Presentation
2 points	Contains seven to ten relevant questions	Generated a total of twelve text messages	Presentation (about four minutes) is brief and engaging
2 points	Data gathered from at least 40 individuals total	All text messages are useful and relevant	Presentation includes a visual aid
2 points	Results displayed in an accurate and readable graph	All text messages are less than 160 characters and avoid the use of slang	Students share responsibility and present in a professional manner
Sub total	_____/6 points	_____/6 points	_____/6 points
Grand total	_____/18 points		

To set expectations, you may wish to provide your students with the project rubric before they begin.



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