

**Title of Session:** SSForum - PBS NewsHour Extra  
**Moderator:** Michael Hutchison  
**Guest Speakers:** Annie Schleicher and Talea Miller  
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Room: Social Studies Forum Group

**MichaelH:** let's go ahead and start so we can get everyone as many resources as we can this evening!

**MichaelH:** Welcome to tonight's SPECIAL Social Studies forum.

**MichaelH:** Last night's primary election results only prove that there's a LONG way to go before we figure who is going to go up against McCain in November

**MichaelH:** as teachers, we need all the help and resources we can get to assist us in that... and PBS NewsHour Extra is a great way to get that help

**MichaelH:** but, before we start looking at what all it offers... let's do some introductions

**MichaelH:** would everyone tell us who they are, where they're located geographically, and what they teach or do?

**PaulGst1:** My name is Paul. I am a student at Mansfield University

**AllysonDa:** My name is Allyson and I am a student teacher in kindergarten. I live in Houston, Tx

**MarkSe:** I'm in New York, I teach east Asian philosophy and I run a website for secondary schools called pursuit -of- happiness.org

**RussellK:** Russ Kahler- Toledo Ohio- Doctoral Student studying political theory at the University of Toledo

**MichaelH** is a social studies teacher in southwestern Indiana

**LisaGst8:** My name is Lisa. I am an education major at Mansfield University in Pa.

**AnneSch:** Hi, my name is Annie and I've been working here at the NewsHour for the past six years. Before that I was a high school teacher.

**TaleaM:** Hello everyone, I'm Talea and I am an editor with NewsHour Extra. I work on our student voices, which are student essays, editorials and interviews that we publish on the site. The NewsHour is located in Virginia

**KeriA:** My name is Keri, I'm in Humble, Tx and I am student teaching right now in 1st grade.

**CarynGst3:** Hi. I'm Caryn. I'm a tech coordinator at a charter school in Jersey City and an MA student at Teacher's College at Columbia

**JeffC:** I'm Jeff Cooper, on Tapped In Helpdesk along with Bj.

**BJB2:** I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

**MichaelH:** everyone, BJ and I have an anniversary this month... we've both been TI members for 10 years...

**AllysonDa:** congrats

**MarkSe:** that a long time for the internet!

**JeffC** . o O ( only 10? rookies! )

**BJB2** cheers for Michael and BJ

**MichaelH:** it looks like we've got everyone introduced... Annie, Talea, would you like to start with a bit of introduction to NewsHour?

**AnneSch:** NewsHour Extra is a sub site of the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer which is on PBS Monday - Friday

**AnneSch:** our main audience is middle and high school students and teachers

**AnneSch:** we try to provide free lesson plans and resources to teach about current events across the curriculum -- and right now we've got a lot going on for our long election season.

**TaleaM:** Tonight we can also point you to a lot of great resources that the main site has for the election, which aren't designed just for students but would be great in a classroom

**AnneSch:** the main Extra site can be found at: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/>

**MichaelH:** remember, everyone, you may need to disable your popup blocker to go to that page

**MichaelH:** and... don't stray away too long... Annie and Talea have a lot of other great resources to share

**AnneSch:** Why don't I walk you through that page -- the first thing you should see is

today's main story about McCain winning the nomination.

**MichaelH:** can everyone see the site Annie showed us?

**LisaGst8:** yes

**MarkSe:** perfect

**CarynGst3:** yes

**RussellK:** yes

**AnneSch:** Our Extra news stories are written with about a 10th grade audience in mind -- they are broken up into easy to read chunks and contain images you can enlarge.

**MichaelH:** great. remember that the site might be hidden under some other windows. DON'T Close this window, however

**AnneSch:** If you click on the McCain story you can see what they look like inside.

**AnneSch:** Notice that there is also a printer friendly version you can click on in the right hand corner

**AnneSch:** Each time we do a news story -- on an election topic or any topic -- we create a student and teacher worksheet for you to use.

**AnneSch:** See HOW TO USE THIS STORY IN THE CLASSROOM in the right column

**RussellK:** do you have a separate news staff, or is it compiled by the staff of the show?

**AnneSch:** the student version -- without the answers or instructions -- for you to print and give to students if you want

**TaleaM:** We have a separate staff that works on the website

**TaleaM:** But we often use information from segments on the show in the articles

**MichaelH:** Annie, Talea, are there streaming video segments from the show on the website?

**AnneSch:** Below those are other resources that we thought people who were interested in this news story might find useful, for example you can see a link to IN-DEPTH COVERAGE VOTE 2008

**TaleaM:** Yes there is streaming video of every segment on the site

**TaleaM:** you can search for video segments by going to the Extra page, typing in a search term in the search window and selecting video as the criteria

**AllysonDa:** are there lessons and other resources for the elementary level?

**RussellK:** the maps and slideshows are very well done...very nice quality

**AnneSch:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/video/>

**TaleaM:** No we don't have any resources specifically for elementary school

**AllysonDa:** ok

**TaleaM:** One feature that might be helpful to start discussions or as an assignment is our student voices

**TaleaM:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/speakout/>

**AnneSch:** The link I just added is to the main video search page on the main Online NewsHour site -- you should be able to find most segments here

**TaleaM:** these give student perspectives on issues in the news, and are a great way to get students to talk about their own opinions

**TaleaM:** right now all the student voices featured are students who are working for campaigns

**RussellK:** that is neat..the first student featured on the page goes to the high school right up the street here in Toledo

**TaleaM:** That's great! yeah all the students I talked to this week were really engaged in the process

**TaleaM:** it was great to hear

**AnneSch:** <http://pbskids.org/newsflashfive/index.html> -- this is a link to another PBS resource for teaching current events that is geared toward a younger audience. I think 5th grade

**AllysonDa:** thank you.

**TaleaM:** If you want to check out our main NewsHour site's resources, the election site can be found here <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/>

**TaleaM:** One of really exciting features we have on there is a primary map we partnered with NPR to make: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/states/> it has state

by state information, including stories, population data and results.

**MichaelH** reminds everyone that if you are a TAPPED IN member, you get a transcript of tonight's session including live links

**AnneSch**: And for elementary students you could always take our images, maps and other information -- and use the bits that you find good for your students

**AllysonDa**: That's pretty cool, it has an animated person that reads the news to them.

**CarynGst3**: I love that map (as does my 17 year old son)! I saw it before through the WNYC web site.

**AnneSch**: We also have created more in-depth lesson plans.

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/jan-june08/vote2008\\_newswriting.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/politics/jan-june08/vote2008_newswriting.html) This one has students looking at the election issues that are important in their communities and then has them act as though they are journalists -- interviewing folks in their communities

**KeriA**: Yes, I like that (the animation) for our Elementary kids, they would like seeing some of these.

**AnneSch**: <http://www.votebyissue.org/election2008/>

**RussellK**: that is a great skill to develop...getting kids to ask questions like journalists would (or used to!)

**MarkSe**: and the vote by issue information is something i need too

**AnneSch**: That vote by issue quiz is an online interactive quiz (designed for our adult audience but could be used by students) that helps determine which candidate you'd be most likely to support based on your answers to the questions

**AnneSch**: You'll notice that you can choose which candidates you even want to consider in the quiz

**RussellK**: nice ...a lot of thought has gone into this...

**TaleaM**: We have another interactive on the site, the super delegate database, which could be handy in the coming weeks

**KeriA**: I like this quiz for us adults

**TaleaM**: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/superdelegates/search.php>

**RussellK**: I was just going to ask if there was something there about these mysterious

superdelegates

**TaleaM:** You can search by state or candidate

**AnneSch:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/lessonplans.html> -- This is one page that you could bookmark -- it's where we're putting all the in-depth lessons for the election as it develops.

**AnneSch:** The main page for adults -- which houses a lot of the good stuff -- is <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/>

**TaleaM:** and you can see the break down of support, also the site will be getting more content on the electoral system in the next few months

**MarkSe:** I've got enough to keep me busy till then!

**AnneSch:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/18844114@N02/> -- this is the NewsHour Flickr feed for those who are interested in finding up to date photos from all over

**AnneSch:**  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/oh\\_slideshow/index.html?type=flash](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/oh_slideshow/index.html?type=flash) -- We also have some neat slide shows (with audio in some cases) that might be short, interesting tid bits for students to watch

**AnneSch:** This is one from Ohio that was recently posted

**AnneSch:** What sorts of things do you people want or need? And how often are you looking to use this stuff? Our goal is to create resources that will be used and we're always open to suggestions and ideas. We truly want to "give it away!"

**AllysonDa:** This is a website I like that has all different subjects that you can search videos for. They have everything from MLK to talking about money to different cultures as far as social studies goes. Also, there's a lot of video options about voting for the elementary level. <http://www.brainpopjr.com/socialstudies/>

**MichaelH:** Annie, you might want to take a moment and tell everyone how to sign up for the e-mail updates

**AnneSch:** And I know you are all interested in the election but Extra also covers lots of other topics. And the Online NewsHour has a really great subsite that covers science: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/index.html>

**AnneSch:** Sure, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/>

**AnneSch:** Look at the right column about half way down

**AnneSch:** [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/subscriptions\\_email.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/subscriptions_email.html)

**AnneSch:** This is our main subscriptions page -- there's a lot here but you can choose what you want or don't want

**MichaelH:** that is distributed about once per week, right?

**AnneSch:** You will get an email that you need to confirm

**AnneSch:** The Extra listserv is sent twice a week -- when we publish a new story

**AnneSch:** usually on Mondays or Wednesdays

**AnneSch:** And we don't sell or give your email to ANYONE

**JeffC:** Anne... do you cover what will (possibly likely) happen in the Democratic convention if neither candidate has enough delegates to win on the first ballot? What the process is on subsequent ballots, etc.?

**AnneSch:** I know that as the story develops the NewsHour, Online NewsHour and Extra will be covering it -- and giving you new resources to assist you

**AnneSch:** We'll have lots of live TV coverage from the convention too

**MarkSe:** people are really curious about the possibilities for Michigan and Florida too

**AnneSch:** Right -- and I know that these are the topics that we'll keep covering. Do you think teachers want a lesson on the Super Delegates and what could happen with Florida and Michigan?

**JeffC:** Well... I know that they'll be covering it as it happens, I'm just wondering about resources for teachers, etc., to consider the possible future. I know that the future isn't normally the realm of the news, but thought that this might be one case where it could be.

**MichaelH:** this will definitely be an interesting election for kids (and teachers) to follow

**JeffC:** Absolutely Anne, I'm sure that many want to know about superdelegates.

**MarkSe:** yes it's creating unprecedented interest in the election process

**AnneSch:** good to know, we'll try to get something out ASAP on that topic

**AnneSch:** [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/white\\_house/jan-june08/superdelegates\\_02-19.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/white_house/jan-june08/superdelegates_02-19.html)

**AnneSch:** This is a segment from the program on Super Delegates

**MichaelH:** I think they were saying this evening that they're considering having FLorida and Michigan have a "revote"

**AnneSch:** You can read the transcript, listen to it as audio (even on your mp3) or watch the streaming video

**JeffC** nods to Michael... This isn't pbs (it's slate and newsweek), but there's an interesting article on the math of the delegate count:

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/118240/output/print>

**AllysonDa:** sounds cool

**AnneSch:** Do you think you would be interested in doing an offline forum in which your students submitted their questions and we had NewsHour experts answer them in some form -- maybe even audio? Would that be useful?

**AnneSch:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/blog/>

**MichaelH:** Annie, that would be a neat idea...

**MichaelH:** you'd be thinking about letting kids do blog entries?

**AnneSch:** This is a new blog that Extra's Teacher Center has been working on -- it's a way for us to interact with you all to share ideas about teaching current events

**AllysonDa:** I know my kids would love hearing answers to their questions in that type of way, but I don'[t know if that is anything NewsHour does, since what they are learning is not on the same level as what NewsHour does.

**AllysonDa:** but for older students, that sounds like a good idea

**AnneSch:** Well, I think if we did this the goal would be to answer their questions in ways that they would understand

**AllysonDa:** well that would definitely be a cool experience for them

**AllysonDa:** I know that would make them more interested and feel "important"

**TaleaM:** Michael, no the blog is something separate. When we do offline forums we put up a form for students to submit questions, then we ask an expert and post the answers

**AnneSch:** Yes, I agree -- and I think it definitely fits into a goal of what we're trying to do here at the NewsHour in general

**AnneSch:** Or it's possible that we could get questions from students and then have the

experts answer them in an audio format -- so you could listen and learn, not just read

**TaleaM:** We did one a year after Katrina with the Louisiana governor

**TaleaM:** [http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/students/blanco\\_answers.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/students/blanco_answers.html)

**AnneSch:** And Michael, I do know that we've been playing around with the idea of making our site more interactive -- by possibly adding a section where students could add comments on news stories. Would that be useful to you all?

**TaleaM:** that is the old Extra design, so it would look pretty different now

**AnneSch:** Another project in the works is that come next fall, during the general election, we are going to create what we're calling BELL WORK -- quick 5minute activities to spur discussion on the election -- each M-F

**RussellK:** have you done, or considered the same type of audio interview with the candidates?

**AnneSch:** they will look at some daily aspect of the election and tie it to history and current events

**RussellK:** or perhaps something for the general election..

**AnneSch:** We do have interviews with the candidates, and I think it's a great idea, but I'm not sure we'd be able to hook up students with the nominees. But it may be worth trying

**AnneSch:** I meant on the TV program -- past interviews

**RussellK:** understandable...but it could be something that ties in with the blog technology

**RussellK:** questions are submitted...or even an online chat in which student questions are entered and answered by the candidates

**AnneSch:** <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/vote2008/primaries/democrats.html>

**AnneSch:** This has a link on the bottom right to the candidates who have been on the NewsHour thus far. It's not a complete set as some have not yet been on the program -- ie. no Obama yet

**MichaelH:** everyone, we're getting close to the end of our hour... anyone have any particular questions or ideas to share with Annie or Talea?

**MarkSe:** only that id love to read the transcript later, VERY useful stuff

**TaleaM:** It might be possible to get the campaigns to respond to submitted questions,

one-on-one time with the candidates might be tougher. We'll look into it!

**AnneSch:** Thank you and please feel free to email me at [aschleicher@newshour.org](mailto:aschleicher@newshour.org) if you have ideas or questions later

**RussellK:** just wanted to thank you for your time, and your efforts- you have done very nice work here

**MichaelH:** oh, and before we forget...

**KeriA:** Thank you!

**MarkSe:** much appreciated

**MichaelH:** Next week, one of the sessions we'll be doing will feature Mark and the Pursuit of Happiness site...

**LisaGst8:** thank you, great resources

**MichaelH:** that will be Wednesday at 8 p.m. Eastern

**MichaelH:** (March 12)

**TaleaM:** and if you have any students who might like to have their editorials or essays published you can email me at [tmiller@newshour.org](mailto:tmiller@newshour.org)

**JeffC:** Thank you VERY MUCH Anne and Talea.

**TaleaM:** Thanks everyone

**MichaelH:** thanks to Annie and Talea for a great session. We learned a lot and it was great hearing about all the cool resources on the NewsHour Extra site

**AnneSch:** Anytime, thanks for spending the hour with us

**MichaelH:** We hope you'll come back and join us again... after all, the campaign can only get MORE interesting!

**JeffC** . o O ( The Talea and Anne News Hour! )

**AllysonDa:** thank you so much for your time and resources

**AllysonDa:** great job!

**JasonGra:** Thanks for the support of education

**JasonGra** : great job

**BJB2** waves goodnight

**MichaelH** waves goodnight to all

**TaleaM**: I'd wave if I knew how, good night!

**AnneSch**: Bye!

**MichaelH**: easy to do Talea, just type a colon then the word waves

**TaleaM** waves

**MichaelH** applauds for Talea

**TaleaM**: there we go

**RussellK** yawns

**RussellK**: hey...it works

**MichaelH**: sure...

**RussellK** marvels at the creativity of the internet

**MichaelH**: you can think too... just type /think it's late and I'm tired

**RussellK**: good night

**MichaelH** . o O ( it's late and I'm tired )

**JeffC**: Great session Michael.

**MichaelH**: thanks, Jeff