



News-Decoder

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From the Founder:

Making better global citizens

News-Decoder was born of a simple idea: That young people are hungry to learn and can help save the world if given the chance.

It started in 2012 with a conversation in Brittany, France involving our two daughters, both millennials. As we touched on the world's headlines, I realized they knew a great deal and yearned to make sense of seeming chaos. At the same time, senior foreign correspondents were being laid off from ailing news organizations as the digital revolution ravaged legacy media.

Why not put youth and veterans together so they can learn from each other?

So from the very start, News-Decoder has been premised on several notions: That young people are bombarded by information and want to connect the dots; that experienced journalists can help youth make sense of the world's complexities; that young people can learn by listening to each other; and that young people become better global citizens by sharing stories, viewpoints and research.

I then launched a not-for-profit in France that started as a modest website. It has grown into a community of academic institutions around the world that brings students and faculty together on a common platform to tackle the world's biggest issues: human rights, climate change, democracy, geopolitics, identity. We have media partners that help our experienced correspondents and young students address global audiences through written articles, podcasts, video and photographs. We showcase outstanding work by news organizations that engage creatively with youth.

While our mission is fundamentally educational, news is in our DNA. The stories our correspondents have covered read like the chapters of a modern history book. Their ability to see multiple sides to complex issues is at the heart of our efforts to expand young people's horizons. We believe that to understand, one must observe and listen — skills at the heart of a good newsperson's work — and we foster real-world journalistic behaviors: keeping an open mind, putting oneself in another's shoes, accepting constructive criticism gracefully, setting and respecting deadlines, working in teams.

But we do not do news for the sake of news. News for us is a way of discovering the world and appreciating its complexities. We do not train young people to become journalists, but in our community, they adhere to the high standards and values that set top journalists apart.

In the four years since we launched our endeavor, we've built a solid foundation on which to grow. Our website showcases work by young people and experienced correspondents alike, touching on the world's critical issues. Our webinar series provides a platform for students around the world to share informed viewpoints and research. Our media partners help amplify our message of tolerance and understanding.

We remain small but have big ambitions — to expand our global network so we can reach more young people in the four corners of the globe. The challenge is vast, but the rewards are great.



NELSON GRAVES
Founder and President

What we believe:

Our mission and work

Mission Statement

News-Decoder is a global educational news forum for young people. Our mission is to foster global understanding by building a borderless community of youth keen to expand their horizons, learn about international affairs and challenge their assumptions.

About our work

We partner with academic institutions around the world to offer students a chance to learn from experts and peers across borders and to produce multimedia content on our site.

We publish work by experienced journalists that is written with young people in mind. These writers “decode” global issues relating to geopolitics, human rights, immigration, climate change and global conflict.

News-Decoder recognizes outstanding student work with awards, mentors aspiring journalists and supports global prizes given to media organizations that engage with young audiences.

Academic Partnerships

- [African Leadership Academy](#), South Africa
- [Chadwick School](#), USA and South Korea
- [Dalton Academy](#), China
- [Friends Seminary](#), USA
- [Gimnasio Los Caobos](#), Colombia
- [Greens Farms Academy](#), USA
- [Herlufsholm School](#), Denmark
- [Hewitt School](#), USA
- [Indiana University](#), USA
- [King’s Academy](#), Jordan
- [La Jolla Country Day School](#), USA
- [Miss Porter’s School](#), USA
- [Pace Academy](#), USA
- [School Year Abroad](#), China, France, Italy, Spain
- [Thacher School](#), USA
- [Westover School](#), USA

An overview:

Our growth and future

2014

Five former foreign correspondents map a plan for creating a news service for young people that leverages the experience of veteran journalists.

2015

February: Nelson Graves launches a [crowdfunding campaign](#) that raises \$50,000 from 360 donors.

June: French authorities approve the creation of News-Decoder's not-for-profit parent organization, Nouvelles-Découvertes. Its mission is to inform young people around the world about international relations "with tolerance, objectivity and broad vision."

July: News-Decoder's website — www.news-decoder.com — goes live.

September: News-Decoder launches a two-year pilot program with seven secondary schools and seven universities in eight countries.

2016

April: A donor supports News-Decoder's first twice-yearly storytelling contest with \$1,000 in prizes.

September: Nouvelles-Découvertes [wins a coveted award](#) from the [World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers](#).

October: News-Decoder teams up with [Global Online Academy](#) to run a four-week mini-course on the U.S. presidential elections.

December: News-Decoder raises \$13,000 in its first annual fundraising drive.

2017

April: Nelson Graves presents News-Decoder's program at the [Global Education Benchmark Group's](#) annual conference in Los Angeles.

July: News-Decoder signs an [agreement](#) with the [African News Agency](#) to provide regular columns on pan-African issues.

September: News-Decoder launches a full-on program with 14 schools in eight countries.

December: News-Decoder raises \$20,000 in its second annual fundraising campaign.

2018

January: News-Decoder reaches a partnership with the UK charity [Podium.me](#) to produce podcasts.

April: Nelson Graves leads a workshop with Global Online Academy for the U.S. [National Association of Independent Schools](#).

August: News-Decoder launches a revamped website with two eLearning courses.

September: News-Decoder expands to 17 schools in 10 countries, with its first two schools in the Southern Hemisphere.

November: News-Decoder and Podium.me release a student-led podcast series "The Kids Are Alright." News-Decoder presents the [inaugural Global Youth and News Media Prize](#) at a major media conference in Scotland.

December: News-Decoder raises \$12,000 in its third annual fundraising campaign and receives a major, [multi-year gift](#).

2019

January: News-Decoder expands full-time staff to three.

March: News-Decoder partners with the U.S. non-profit [The International Congress of Youth Voices](#).

April: Nelson Graves presents at the [Global Education Benchmark Group's](#) annual conference.

May: News-Decoder presents the [second edition of the Global Youth and News Media Prize](#) to a Paraguayan news team at the Eurasian Media Forum in Kazakhstan.

2020

News-Decoder's plan for 2020 is to participate in educational conferences in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North America; to join the largest international educational association in the Middle East; and to sign at least seven new partner schools in different countries.

2021

News-Decoder's plan in 2021 is to participate in at least five international educational conferences around the world; to join a second international educational association; and to sign at least 10 new partner schools in different countries.

"The thing I love about creating *The Kids Are Alright* podcast is that young people get to pitch their own ideas. It's very much a ground-up pitching process. Podium gets to help produce these podcasts and put them on our platform. It really is a collaboration that works on both sides.

I'm thrilled that News-Decoder wants to work with Podium, and I hope that this will be a long, fruitful partnership."

CAMILLA BYK
Co-founder of Podium.me



"Having experienced journalists like News-Decoder does is a tremendous asset for a young writer who needs to frame their writing in the context of publication, in the context of who is going to read this and how do I sway them towards my opinion, how do I convey facts impartially, how do I convey a situation that is very real and very intense — especially in a teenage perspective — to a broader audience."

AMANDA UHLE
Co-founder of The International Congress of Youth Voices



"At School Year Abroad we have found News-Decoder to be an extraordinary partner as many of our students are passionate about world affairs and want to pursue careers in International Relations and Journalism. I can't think of a better way to introduce students to authentic audiences. News-Decoder has provided our students with opportunities to engage with real-world topics and learn essential 21st-century skills significantly enriching their academic experience."

KIMBERLY BAKER
English Chair and Advisory Facilitator at School Year Abroad



"News-Decoder fundamentally changed me as a writer and working with Nelson Graves helped me grow in both my world view and political identity. I was encouraged to dive deep into subjects that already interested me and gained a new perspective and appreciation for the power of journalism."

JAELI ROSE
Student Ambassador 2017-18 at School Year Abroad France



"I was a student in the 1970s when the science of climate change became known. But it's hard to look 50 years ahead when you are young, and my generation failed to grasp the urgency of it. For me, writing on the subject for News-Decoder is a way of helping the younger generation address the climate challenge. Now young people are taking the leadership on climate, which is the best hope for the future."

SUE LANDAU
News-Decoder correspondent



■ **THE BARON** News service backed by ex-Reuters journalists wins global prize



News-Decoder to help young audiences understand news



The Guardian US and Parkland's Eagle Eye student newspaper win the Global Youth and News Media Prize



U.S. podcast spotlights News-Decoder and partner