



A global  
educational  
news service for  
young people

# NEWS DECODER



2021-22 Educational Program Brochure

# About Us

## What we do

News Decoder is a global educational news service for young people. We partner with schools around the world to teach media literacy and journalistic skills that extend students' horizons and understanding of global issues. We help schools fulfill their mission to create better global citizens.

## Why we do it

In 2012, the United Nations set global citizenship education as a top priority. Global citizenship embraces the notion that we all belong to a broad community and common humanity, despite differences in political, economic, social and cultural systems. Global citizenship education helps young people develop a set of core competencies. The eight internationally-recognized global citizenship competencies are:

- empathy
- critical thinking and problem solving
- ability to communicate
- conflict resolution
- sense and security of identity
- shared universal values (human rights, justice, peace)
- respect for diversity and intercultural understanding
- recognition of global issues and their connectedness

We understand that teaching these competencies is easier said than done. It entails helping students develop behaviours that underpin great journalism: to challenge assumptions, separate fact from opinion, consider conflicting viewpoints, identify solutions, accept constructive feedback and communicate clearly and impartially. As an innovative educational resource, we help schools teach these critical competencies.

**“Working with News Decoder has been an eye-opening experience. It helped me understand that there are other ways to look at issues beyond the simple binary of right and wrong. I deeply appreciate having had the opportunity to learn from them.”**

**—Saga Leslie,  
The Thacher  
School**

## Who we are

News Decoder is led by Nelson Graves, an experienced educator and administrator. Graves was a correspondent, bureau chief and regional managing editor at Reuters for 24 years, holding posts in six countries. He later served as admissions director at Johns Hopkins University's graduate program in international relations in Italy. Graves founded News Decoder in 2015.

News Decoder is enriched by a network of more than 50 correspondents who have decades of experience covering politics, wars, economics, diplomacy and religion for the world's leading media organizations. They are also authors, professors, scholars and consultants. News Decoder's correspondents mentor and coach students at our partner schools by leading workshops, editing student work and serving as experts in our global webinars.

Watch the video below to hear from students about how they have changed as thinkers, communicators and citizens by participating in our program.





# About Our Work

## Our 2021-22 educational program

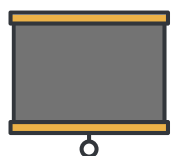
News Decoder is an innovative educational resource for schools committed to teaching global citizenship. Students at our partner schools have exclusive access to an array of interactive, hands-on educational services:



**Content Production:** Students identify story topics, pitch their ideas, conduct research and reporting and work with News Decoder's editors to produce multimedia content that is published on our global news site. Faculty can task their students with producing content for us as part of a classroom assignment, and students can independently work with the News Decoder team to produce reported stories, personal reflection essays, poetry, podcasts and more.



**Mentoring:** News Decoder's editorial team works closely with students at our partner schools. We guide students through a pitching, reporting, drafting and revision process that helps them develop invaluable skills, we share our expertise in workshops and webinars, and we offer personalized feedback that challenges students to consider diverse perspectives, check their biases, consult experts and identify solutions to problems.



**Workshops:** We host a series of virtual workshops in the first semester that students from all of our partner schools are invited to join. The interactive workshops are led by News Decoder's correspondents or a member of our editorial team and cover topics such as reporting and drafting techniques and media literacy.



**E-Learning Courses:** Students and faculty have exclusive access to our E-Learning library, which includes journalist-developed courses on media literacy, interviewing, storytelling and podcast creation.

- **Media Literacy:** Students are invited to think critically about media's functions; question who owns media and why; and differentiate good quality media from bad.
- **Reporting 101:** Students learn how to secure, prepare for and conduct interviews. They come away equipped to deepen their understanding of complex issues.
- **Drafting 101:** Students learn how to craft stories that capture others' attention and convey important information.
- **Podcast Creation:** Students learn how to produce a podcast, from start to finish, including podcast best practices.

**Co-School Collaboration:** We pair each school in our network with a school in another region and facilitate cross-school collaboration on webinars and multimedia production. Student teams from partnered schools work together to identify reportable topics relating to a common global theme such as the environment, immigration or social inequality; conduct reporting; present findings to each other during a one-hour webinar; and co-produce multimedia packages that showcase the fruits of their labor.



### News Decoder Webinars: Tackling the Big Issues



**International Podcast Series:** Students can participate in the creation of our international podcast series, the *News Decoder Podcast*, which we co-produce with our media partner Podium.me and publish through Apple.



**Educators' Catalog:** Each month, we send faculty our Educators' Catalog, which is a curated selection of the top educational articles we have published that month. Our articles impartially explain – or “decode” – globally significant events, institutions and innovations and are designed to be used as teaching resources: articles end with questions that can support student exercises like Q&A, research projects or debates.



**Extending the Classroom:** When the coronavirus pandemic ends and schools resume their student travel programs, News Decoder will be there to support students in their physical and intellectual journeys. We help students learn from their travels abroad by encouraging them to probe beyond the superficial, speak with citizens in overseas destination and produce multimedia content that reflects on what they learned.



**Social Media Promotion:** We promote students and partner schools on our website and social media platforms. Students who create publishable content can showcase their work when applying for internships, jobs or university admissions. Schools can point to the News Decoder partnership and their students' successes as examples of their innovative commitment to teaching global citizenship.



# Global Citizenship Education

News Decoder's educational program is designed to help students develop journalistic skills and behaviors that foster the core, internationally-recognized global citizenship competencies.

ACTIVITIES	OUTCOMES	COMPETENCIES
Students get to...	Students learn to...	Students acquire these global citizenship competencies...
Produce multimedia content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct original research</li> <li>• Interview authoritative sources</li> <li>• Present information engagingly and impartially</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication skills</li> <li>• Knowledge of global issues</li> <li>• Critical-thinking abilities</li> </ul>
Receive mentoring by News Decoder staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider diverse viewpoints</li> <li>• Suspend biases</li> <li>• Identify global problems and solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect for diversity</li> <li>• Sense of empathy</li> <li>• Problem-solving skills</li> </ul>
Collaborate with students from another school on a webinar and multimedia package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead meetings with students in another school</li> <li>• Identify similarities and differences in big issues</li> <li>• Conduct research and reporting and present their findings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intercultural understanding</li> <li>• Recognition of global issues</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Conflict resolution</li> </ul>
Read and discuss our educational articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciate the complexity of global issues</li> <li>• Discuss and debate tough questions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of global issues</li> <li>• Appreciation of universal values</li> <li>• Critical thinking skills</li> </ul>
Participate in our workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop journalistic skills and behaviors</li> <li>• Consult multiple perspectives on controversial topics</li> <li>• Appreciate the benefits of subject-matter expertise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Intercultural understanding</li> <li>• Problem-solving skills</li> </ul>

# How a Partnership Works

News Decoder is an innovative educational resource that is available to the entire school community. Faculty and students from different departments take advantage of our resources throughout the year in different ways.

Departments and faculty are encouraged to integrate our resources into their curriculum and courses. Student teams engage directly with us as they participate in workshops, prepare webinars and produce multimedia packages in partnership with students from another part of the world. Students submit multimedia content to our twice-yearly storytelling contest and participate in our international podcast series.

The timeline on the next page shows how students from a partner school can engage with us throughout the school year. The News Decoder team systematically drives engagement by organizing and hosting activities and ensuring faculty and students are aware of how to participate in them.

"The opportunity to participate in and lead SYA's Nationalism in Europe webinar provided me with the tools to manage a team and research complicated issues."

— Elisabeth Wachtel, Student Ambassador, SYA France

"What is extremely convenient about News Decoder is that it is flexible. Students can adapt pieces they are working on for their classes or use this outlet to publish on any other topics of interest. This gives students the chance to drive their own learning while honing their critical thinking and communication skills."

— Maya Schkolne, Humanities Faculty, African Leadership Academy

## AUGUST

Faculty and Student Ambassadors participate in a 45-minute online orientation session and meet peers from partner institutions around the world.

## OCTOBER

A correspondent leads a workshop with students on our Pitch, Report, Draft and Revise process.

Student Ambassadors promote our first of two Storytelling Contests within the school.

Schools from different regions are paired up to tackle a common topic of global interest in their webinar and multimedia packages.

## DECEMBER

Students submit stories to the first of two Storytelling Contests.

Contest winners are chosen by a jury and awarded cash prizes.

News Decoder publishes contest winners and other strong contenders on our site.

## FEBRUARY

Students take 30-minute E-Learning course to learn about producing multimedia content for global audiences.

The Webinar & Multimedia Team co-presents its research and reporting in a global webinar that features students from its partner school and submits multimedia package that showcases key findings from their research and reporting.

Student Ambassadors promote the second of two Storytelling Contests within the school.

## APRIL

News Decoder interviews and selects students to participate in the News Decoder Podcast.

Webinar & Multimedia Team's multimedia package is published on our site and promoted on News Decoder's social media platforms.

Students submit their stories to the second Storytelling Contest.

Students are invited to apply to become Student Ambassadors the following year.

## SEPTEMBER

Students receive log-in credentials to access the site's password-protected resources.

Students receive a welcome email introducing News Decoder and explaining how to engage with us.

Student Ambassadors and faculty speak to their peers and colleagues about News Decoder.

Faculty receive the first Educators' Catalog of the year.

## NOVEMBER

Students take 30-minute E-Learning courses to learn about media literacy, research and interviewing.

Students pitch Contest submission ideas to News Decoder through our online pitching portal and receive personalized feedback on how to report and produce content.

News Decoder facilitates a Brainstorming Session between the school's Webinar & Multimedia Team and the student team from their partner school.

## JANUARY

News Decoder facilitates a Planning Session between school's Webinar & Multimedia Team and the student team from their partner school.

## MARCH

Students work with News Decoder's editorial team or correspondents to shape content from their multimedia package into publishable form.

Students pitch Contest submission ideas to News Decoder through our online pitching portal and receive personalized feedback on how to report and produce content.

Students are invited to apply to participate in the News Decoder Podcast.

## MAY

Contest winners are chosen by a jury and awarded cash prizes. News Decoder publishes contest winners and other strong contenders on our site.

Students work with News Decoder and Podium.me to produce the News Decoder Podcast.

News Decoder interviews and selects Student Ambassadors for following academic year.

News Decoder solicits feedback from faculty and Student Ambassadors on our program.



# Partner With Us

If you are interested in becoming an academic partner, or simply want to learn more, we would be delighted to speak with you. Please contact us.

## Who we partner with

News Decoder partners with schools and universities around the world, typically through annual, recurring partnerships. We are particularly well-placed to partner with schools that have:

- an international outlook or commitment to global citizenship;
- a robust global studies or experiential education program;
- an IB Diploma Programme;
- a Creativity, Activity, Service (CAS) curriculum component;
- journalism or media classes, clubs or programs;
- a strong commitment to co-curriculars or extra-curriculars;
- an openness to innovative educational methods; or
- an interest in developing any of the above.

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## Our fee

Schools pay an annual fee to partner with us. Fees cover our nonprofit's costs of hosting a professional news site and engaging with students.

Our fees may stretch the means of some schools. We offer financial aid to schools that require it. Please contact us to learn more.