



CONTENT-SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Supporting Students at Home

Grades 6-8

Overview

This guide is designed to provide content-specific instructional activities for student use when schools are closed for inclement weather or other unexpected events. The activities listed below are intended to help keep our students intellectually active while they are at home.

The activities and tasks that students complete at home will not be used as assessment or counted toward a part of the students' final quarter grade. Families should review the list below and select options that are relevant, accessible, and age-appropriate.

Secondary Social Studies

- Enjoy some time with Crash Course Contents (<https://www.youtube.com/user/crashcourse>). You can use U.S. History, World History, Government, Economics and more. Start by watching topics you've already learned about in class, but feel free to explore. Be sure to try and identify the claims made in the video and the evidence used to support those claims. Once you've watched an episode, consider researching to find another source you may use as the "Mystery Document." Explain why you chose this document and how it relates to the episode you just watched.
- It's _____ History Month
Research the achievements of a successful person being celebrated this month in a field you find interesting and reflect on the following questions:
 - What did they achieve?
 - What obstacles did they face? How did they overcome those obstacles?
 - What do you find inspiring about the person?
- Compare and contrast front-page stories from two local or state newspapers. Construct a T-chart on a piece of paper with the headings, similarities and differences. Include information about headlines, kinds of stories, use of color, typefaces, and anything else you note to compare and contrast the two newspapers. What might account for any differences? How are different stories presented?
- Map your neighborhood. Walk around your neighborhood and make note of its features. Construct a map of your neighborhood. You could also construct a map of the route to a friend's house or to your school.
- Play GAMES (<https://www.icivics.org/games>). There are many games that cover everything from media literacy to history to the functions of government. Be sure to spend some time with *Do I Have a Right?* to see if you know your Constitutional Rights.
- Students Enrolled in 8th Grade Social Studies: Take some time to try the 8th Grade U.S. History Assessment (<https://md.mypearsonsupport.com/practice-tests/socialstudies/>). The practice test

platforms have a default login of "Guest," and you should participate as a guest and not enter your name.

Secondary Language Arts

- Read your anchor text or a book of your choice. Use the Reader Response Questions below to demonstrate your understanding. Consider responding to one question for every 20 minutes of reading:
 - What connections are there between the book and your life? Explain.
 - What are the most important sentences/paragraphs/passages in this book? The most important event or feeling? Explain.
 - What is the best part of the book? Why? What is the worst part? Why?
 - What parts of the book seem most believable or unbelievable? Why?
 - What makes you wonder in this book? What confuses you?
 - In what ways are you like any of the characters? Explain.
 - Do any of the characters remind you of friends, family members, or classmates? Explain.
- Additional Resources
 - Independent Reading Prompts: <https://tinyurl.com/IRprompts>
 - Journal Prompts: <https://tinyurl.com/jrprompts>
 - Mixed Genre-Choice Board: <https://tinyurl.com/wrchoice>
- Creative Writing Prompts. Challenge yourself to respond to one of these prompts and then share your writing with someone.
 - Attach an image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page and write about it.
 - What things will people in the future say about how we live now? (Examples: They ate that? They believed that?)
 - Imagine a future in which we each have a personalized robot servant. What would yours be like? What would it do? What features would it have?
 - What does your name mean? Free write about names: names you like, names you do not like, how a name can affect a person's life, how you feel about your own name, why your parents chose your name, etc.
 - Imagine that someone says to you, "Because that's how we've always done it!" Write this out as a scene. (Think: Who said it, what were the circumstances, how did you respond, etc.)
 - Think about your strongest emotion right now (irritation, boredom, happiness, contentment, etc.) and find five quotes about this emotion.
 - List six true sentences that begin with the words "I'll never forget..."
 - List ten places in the world that you would most like to visit and 10 places you would never want to visit and explain why you selected each place.
- Explore books that have been made into films. What differences can you note? What creative ways did the director bring the text to life? Feel free to use this resource <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/book-to-film>.
- Review the lyrics to one of your school appropriate favorite songs. Identify three devices that are used within the song and explain their use and impact. Devices include simile, metaphor, hyperbole, symbolism, rhyme, rhythm, mood, and tone.
- Access articles from CommonLit (<https://www.commonlit.org>) that align with the theme of your current unit and respond to the questions provided. Use the library tab and search by theme to find grade-level resources.

- Find news articles of interest on Newsela (available in Clever in <https://hcpss.me>). Read the article and respond to the questions.
- Read a series of articles about a topic of interest in Room for Debate (<https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate>). Capture your ideas using this downloadable template (<https://tinyurl.com/rfdtemplate>) or on any paper you have available.
- Find a person or topic of interest within the website *Humans of New York* (<https://www.humansofnewyork.com>). After learning about this individual, respond to one of the prompts in the Non-Fiction Writing Choice Board (<https://tinyurl.com/nfwchoice>).

Secondary Mathematics

- Complete some of the mathematical challenges listed below from *NCTM's Figure This!* (<https://figurethis.nctm.org>):
 - *Stamps* - Suppose you found an old roll of 15¢ stamps. Can you use a combination of 33¢ stamps and 15¢ stamps to mail a package for \$1.77? Why or why not?
 - *The Race* - When Paz and Evander ran a 50-meter race, Paz crossed the finish line, while Evander was at the 45-meter mark. The two friends decided to race again. This time Evander starts 5 meters ahead of Paz, who is at the starting line. If each runs at the same speed as in the previous race, who will win? How do you know?
 - *Table for 19* - Talia's restaurant has square tables that seat one person on each side. To seat large groups, two or more tables are pushed together. What is the least number of tables needed to seat a group of 19 people together? Show your reasoning.
 - *Double or Not* - Would you rather work seven days at \$20 per day or be paid \$2 for the first day and have your salary double every day for a week? Explain.
 - *Profit or Loss* - Imagine that you bought a collection of stickers for \$6, sold them for \$7, bought them back for \$8, then sold them for \$9. How much profit did you make? Explain how you know.
 - *Cut the Cake* - Raisa and her five friends share a 9-inch square cake. How can Raisa cut the cake so that each person receives an equal share of the cake? Use numbers and/or symbols.
 - *Arctic Birds* - Every year, Arctic birds fly from the Arctic to the Antarctic and back, a distance of about 9000 miles each way. Suppose the birds fly at an average of 25 miles per hour for 12 hours a day. How many days of flying would be needed to make the roundtrip? Show your work.
 - *Perplexing Percentages* - Is a discount of 30% off the original price, followed by a discount of 50% off the sales price, the same as a discount of 80% from the original price? How do you know?
 - *Drip Drops* - A faucet drips once every two seconds. In one week how much water drips (goes to waste)--enough to fill a glass, a sink or a bathtub? Show your calculations.
 - *Bowl 'em Over* - Jordan is about to bowl his final game in a bowling tournament. His previous scores were 134, 99, 109, 117, and 101. To win the tournament his average score must be at least 114. Estimate his chances of winning. Explain your reasoning.
- Additional Activities:
 - Find examples of fractions around the house or neighborhood. Add, subtract, multiply, divide, or simplify the fractions that you find.
 - Locate sales in advertisements, newspapers, retailer websites, etc. Calculate the percent of discount and/or the original price. Calculate the unit price of a product.

- Locate a recipe in your home. Double or triple the recipe to account for additional people, or cut the recipe in half, in thirds or in fourths to account for a small group.
- Using a 7- or 8-foot piece of string tied in a loop, create two- and three-dimensional figures. Discuss the properties of these figures.
- Online Activities/Support:
 - Explore Khan Academy materials that enable personalized practice aligned with mathematics course curriculum. Video-based lessons, reviews, practice problems, and quizzes are provided. Login is not required, however, parents/guardians may sign up as the 'Coach' for a child to monitor their progress.
 - Mathematics 6: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/6th-grade-illustrative-math>
 - Mathematics 7: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/7th-grade-illustrative-math>
 - Mathematics 8 and Pre-Algebra GT: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/8th-grade-illustrative-math>
 - Algebra I (and Algebra I GT): <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/algebra>
 - Geometry GT: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/geometry>
 - Algebra II GT: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/algebra2>
 - AP Statistics: <https://www.khanacademy.org/math/ap-statistics>
 - Complete more of the 80 mathematical challenges in *NCTM's Figure This! Problems and Challenges* (<https://figurethis.nctm.org>). Each challenge includes a problem, a tip for getting started, a complete solution, and an extension of the initial problem called "Try This." Additional problems, things to think about, and a description of where the math is used in the real world help support your explorations.
 - Find or create a geometric pattern (<http://www.visualpatterns.org>). Use multiple representations to show how the pattern is growing: words, graph, table, visual, or algebraic expression. Show the connections between the representations using color-coding, arrows, and words.
 - Explore creative and inspiring mathematical tasks that allow students to make connections between math and the real world using Youcubed Mathematical Tasks (<https://www.youcubed.org/tasks>). Tasks are designed to encourage mathematical reasoning and sense-making while allowing students to think creatively.
 - Visit the HCPSS Family Mathematics Support Center (<http://hcpssfamilymath.weebly.com>) for additional online resources, including instructional videos and practice/review exercises.

Secondary Science

Indoor/Discussion:

- Find a thinking partner. This can be a parent or a sibling. Maybe it's a friend who you can call or text. People always think better when they have someone else with whom to share ideas. Try discussing an engineering problem that you both find interesting. Compare your solutions to determine the qualities that make one better than another under certain constraints.
- Talk with your family about how science affects your everyday life. Is there a particular science topic that interests you? Pick something that really interests you. Consider how you might investigate it to learn more.
 - Is there data from a reputable source on this topic of interest?
 - Can you draw a model to help you understand more?

- Are there solutions you can think of for a particular engineering problem?
- Take some time to record these and evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Outdoors:

- Observe a natural phenomenon like the weather, sun, moon, clouds or the sunset.
 - What do you notice?
 - How does the process change over time?
 - Record your observations over a period of hours (in the case of clouds) or days (in the case of the weather and sunset).
- Start/maintain an “Earth Journal.” This can be as simple as snapping a photo from a window each day to capture the constant cycling of our environment to something more complex that includes formalized observations of a chosen phenomenon. Choose something that inspires you. You don’t need a special notebook. No special formatting. Just record what you see/hear/experience.

Online:

- Read a science article, view a video, or listen to a recording of your choice from the *Online Resources* listed below. After accessing one of the resources, respond to the follow up questions within your science notebook or journal. What excites you about this topic that others need to know? Explain scientific phenomena or ideas to family members or friends after engaging with this information.

- **Online Resources:**

- Science News for Students provides age-appropriate, topical science news to learners, parents, and educators (<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org>).
 - Additional Option: Find a job that interests you and read the article to learn more (<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/collections/cool-jobs>).
 - Investigate episodes of Maryland Public Television’s (MPT) Outdoor Maryland, NOVA, Nature and a variety of other shows. These are available by going to the MPT website (www.mpt.org) or by tuning into MPT on your television.
 - Explore the NSF Science Zone free app and web-available audio and video from the National Science Foundation (NSF) (https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/apps/).
 - Review current topics posted related to animals, conservation and research the National Aquarium in Baltimore conducts (<https://www.aqua.org/blog>).
 - Read an overview of some of the missions currently underway at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (<https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard-missions-present>).
 - Select an article on environmental and earth topics from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (<https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections>).
- Identify a phenomena from the list from Phenomena- The Wonder of Science (<https://thewonderofscience.com/phenomenal>) and watch the accompanying video OR identify a phenomena from the natural world around you. Use the prompts for *Phenomena Inquiry* below and record in your science notebook/journal.
 - **Phenomena Inquiry:**
Use the NGSS Inquiry Cards (<http://bit.ly/NGSSInquiryCards>) or complete the following for a phenomena in your notebook/journal:
 - Describe the phenomena.

- What questions do you have about the phenomena?
- Construct a model (such as diagrams, drawings, mathematical relationships, analogies, computer simulations, and physical replicas) to represent ideas and explanations.
- Analyze and interpret data provided about the phenomena.
- Construct an explanation about the phenomena.
- Reason and argue based on evidence to identify the best explanation for a natural phenomenon or the best solution to a design problem.
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate the information clearly and accurately to a family member or friend.

World Language

- Study vocabulary from current and previous units of study.
- Use Scrabble or Bananagram letters or make your own letter cards to create a crossword puzzle containing as many target language words as you can.
- Write as many words as you can think of in the target language on cards. Create simple sentences with the words. Challenge yourself to make the sentences longer.
- Create a board game or a card game in the target language to review topics from current and/or previous units of study.
- **Write** in the target language. Choose a prompt from the list provided below. Respond to the prompt in writing, in the target language. Have fun with it, be creative, and don't be afraid to take linguistic risks.
 - Write simple captions for pictures or photos.
 - Label familiar people, places, and objects in pictures.
 - Write the physical or personality traits of a character in a book or film.
 - Write the sequence of events from a story you have read or a film you have seen.
 - Write a book or film review.
 - Write a short story. Be as descriptive as possible and include several actions to move the story along. Illustrate your story.
 - Write a short note, text, or e-mail to a friend about upcoming plans.
 - Create and illustrate a chart of things you like and dislike, or label the things you like and do not like in a picture.
 - Write a list of desirable and undesirable characteristics in a friend.
 - Make a simple poster to campaign for a person or event.
 - Pick something (a place, a thing, or an idea) and describe it as thoroughly as you can.
 - Write and illustrate an advertisement for something (a product or a service).
 - Write a product review.
 - Write and illustrate a comic strip.
 - Write a dialogue between two people. Or, take it a step further and write a short skit.
 - Write jokes or riddles.
 - Write a short poem. It doesn't need to rhyme.
 - Write a song.
 - Write instructions on how to do something.
 - Write a short gratitude note. What are you grateful for today? Express your thanks with words of appreciation.
- **Speak** in the target language.

- Read aloud your written responses to the prompts completed in the previous list. If you can, record your responses.
- Count in the target language as you complete activities from the [Physical Education](#) choice board.
- After you have completed one of your [Secondary Mathematics](#) tasks in English, read the numbers aloud in the target language.
- **Read** in the target language for at least 15 minutes per day. Maintain a reading log. Write and/or speak in the target language about what you have read, keeping in mind the Can-Do expectations for your proficiency target (Novice Low, Novice Mid, Novice High, Intermediate Low, or Intermediate Mid).
 - Review NCSSFL-ACTFL Novice Can-Do Statements for reading and writing (https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/CanDos/Novice%20Can-Do_Statements.pdf).
 - Review NCSSFL-ACTFL Intermediate Can-Do Statements for reading and writing (<https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/CanDos/Intermediate%20Can-Do%20Statements.pdf>).
 - Refer to your textbook or to links on your class Canvas page for potential readings.
- **Listen** to and/or **view** authentic resources in the target for at least 15 minutes per day. Maintain a listening/viewing log. Write and/or speak in the target language about what you have heard/viewed, keeping in mind the Can-Do expectations for your proficiency target (Novice Low, Novice Mid, Novice High, Intermediate Low, or Intermediate Mid).
 - Review NCSSFL-ACTFL Novice Can-Do Statements for listening/viewing and writing (https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/CanDos/Novice%20Can-Do_Statements.pdf).
 - Review NCSSFL-ACTFL Intermediate Can-Do Statements for listening/viewing and writing (<https://www.actfl.org/sites/default/files/CanDos/Intermediate%20Can-Do%20Statements.pdf>).
 - Refer to your class Canvas page for links to potential items to listen to and/or view.
 - Watch a movie or show in the target language, without subtitles.
 - Listen to the radio or a podcast in the target language.
- CHALLENGE - Complete an activity from the [ESOL](#) task list or another content area's task list, in the target language.
- SUPER CHALLENGE - After you have completed one of your [Secondary Language Arts](#) tasks in English, complete it in the target language.

Art

In your sketchbook or on a piece of paper, use available drawing supplies to complete some of the following activities:

- Draw a piece of fruit every day until it becomes rotten.
- Draw something from a pet's point of view.
- Combine three existing animals to create a completely new creature.
- Draw an animal playing a musical instrument.
- Draw a pile of dishes before they get washed.
- Draw tools that belong to a certain profession.
- Create three drawings of messes you have made.

Supporting Web Links:

- Inside a Stranger's Sketchbook, By Jordan Kisner The New Yorker (<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/inside-a-strangers-sketchbook>)

- Art Sketchbook Ideas: Creative Examples to Inspire High School Students (<https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/art-sketchbook-ideas>)
- PBS Learning Media (<https://mpt.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/the-arts/visual-art/>)

Music

- Using standard notation draw three major scales and play or sing them.
- Create a rhythm pattern using household items while keeping a steady beat.
- Listen to a song and describe the form of the song using refrain/chorus.
- Listen to a song and discuss your own personal critique with someone in your family.
- Pick a theme song for your day and describe why you selected the song.
- Identify rhythms that are created naturally in your home.
- Continue to practice and review class music (if applicable).

Library Media

- Read a variety of genres and formats. Digital materials are available in MackinVIA from hcpss.me and from HCLibrary available from hcpss.me.
- Generate questions about a topic of personal interest or curricular relevance. Conduct research using the Big6 process or another inquiry process to answer those questions.
- Explore digital publishing materials such as WeVideo and G-suite.

Physical Education

Complete at least one of the following physical activities each day. Break as needed during each activity. Encourage someone from your family to participate with you.

30-minute brisk walk with an adult	100 jumping jacks	1 yoga video from Cosmic Kids Yoga (https://www.cosmickids.com/)	1 workout from the workout website Darebee (https://darebee.com/)
100 curl-ups	5 sets of 10 push-ups or Hold push up position for a total of 90 seconds.	100 air squats	3 videos from Go Noodle (https://family.gonoodle.com/)
Crazy 8's - 8 jumping jacks, 8 high knees 8 scissor jumps. Repeat 8 times	50 lunges	5 sets of 1-minute planks	50 burpees
YouTube Workout Video (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_A_HjHZxfI)	100 air kicks and 100 air punches	15-minute jog with an adult	30-minute bike ride with an adult
100 high knees	15-minute dance party	15 minutes of stretching, hold each stretch for 30 seconds.	20-minute workout of your choice

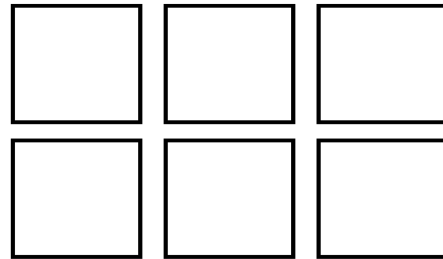
After you complete the physical activity of your choice, select one of the questions below to discuss with a friend or family member.

- Would you recommend this activity to a friend? Explain why or why not.
- Rate this workout using the perceived rate of exertion scale (RPE). Explain your answer.
- If you were going to do this workout again, what would you do to make it more enjoyable?

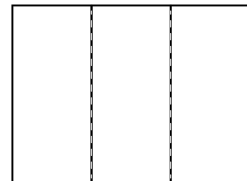
Health Education

Use what you already know about communication, body language, and the importance of health-enhancing decisions to complete the following learning tasks about assertiveness and refusal skills.

- Create a cartoon or comic strip that teaches kids/teens about assertiveness and refusal skills. Your project should be at least three panels in length. You may use an online comic generator such as www.makebeliefscomix.com, or create a paper comic strip like the template.



- Write a 2-3 minute persuasive speech to convince your community why they should be using assertiveness and refusal skills. Include background information, facts, and tips about using these skills. Create a brochure about assertiveness and refusal skills. Use illustrations, graphics, and color to enhance the project. Your brochure should be easy to read, neat, and concise, and include bulleted information.



ESOL

- Access images from *The New York Times* What's Going on in this Picture (<https://www.nytimes.com/column/learning-whats-going-on-in-this-picture>) and complete the following activities:
 - List or describe what you see in the image
 - Summarize what you think is happening in the image
 - Write a creative caption for the image
- Access <https://newsela.com>, select a Pro/Con article and complete the following task:
 - Write a response that states your opinion and reasoning
- Access WeVideo in <https://hcpss.me/>. Record yourself speaking about one of the following topics:
 - Summarize any book you have read or listened to
 - Summarize a news article or news report you have read or watched
 - Persuade a friend to watch a television show or movie you have watched
- Read or listen to any text in English and complete the following tasks:
 - Summarize the text you read or listened to orally or in writing
 - Create a mini-poster to advertise the text to a classmate
- Respond to one of the following persuasive writing prompts:

- Should students be able to grade their teachers?
- Can cellphones be educational tools?
- Does TV capture the diversity of America yet?
- What musician or actor should be a superstar, but hasn't quite made it yet?
- Should all sports athletes make the same salary?
- What author do you think deserves an award?
- Can money buy you happiness?
- What is the best movie of the past year?
- Which is more important, talent or hard work?
- How much technology time is too much?