

Lesson Plan: Election trends: Have we heard the 'death knell' of progressive electoral politics in the city of Santa Cruz?



Reading comprehension

Grade Level: 9-12

Lesson time: 30 minutes

Overview

Lookout's News Quizzes are a great way to get students interested in local news in an easy and quick way. These quizzes test reading comprehension while getting students more informed on issues and happenings in the community.

How best to use this in your classroom

Quizzes are sorted by date and headline and updated frequently. Choose an article related to one of your current teachings. Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations. This is a great reading comprehension and media literacy activity. It could also be a great way to give students extra credit opportunities in your class, a lesson to share when you have a substitute teacher and/or a great icebreaker to connect students with local issues.

LESSON PLAN

- Share this article with your students and have them read it. This can be assigned as homework or done in class (10 min)

Rain-rich, faucet-famine: The irony of Boulder Creek's ongoing water woes

- Share the questions with your class and have them answer the questions, either individually or in small groups. Find our Questions doc for a printable or shareable document (10 min)
- Using the answer key, you can either grade this quiz or have a class discussion around it (10 min)

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Lookout
SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz is still blue, but the veneer of the deep blue, Bernie Sanders-backing city seems to be fading, at least on the local dais, where all of the leading candidates represent the moderate foils to their more progressive left opponents.

Question 1: As of March 11, 2024 (the time of this article's release), which two candidates have already won their respective race and who did they beat?

-Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson won and defeated Joy Shindledecker for the District 3 city council seat.

-Sonja Brunner defeated Hector Marin for District 2 city council seat

Question 2: What were the big distinctions that candidates had to make about themselves in regards to progressive and moderate ideology?

-Housing development, the future look of Santa Cruz, and how the city should handle the state-mandated obligation to permit 3,736 new housing units by 2031.

Question 3: Political lines in the city are becoming more tied to certain ideas about what?

-Housing and/or affordable housing production and how best it should be handled.

Question 4: Housing and/or affordable housing production and how best it should be handled. Santa Cruz Together is a politically influential group that pulls a lot of funding from where?

-Local real estate powerhouses such as the Santa Cruz Seaside Company and Swenson Builders

Question 5: Candidates who were falling behind in the race were endorsed by whom?

-Santa Cruz for Bernie, the local chapter of Democratic Socialists of America's voting guide, and the Service Employees International Union Local 521.

-One exception for the Service Employees International Union Local 521: they did not endorse Marin from district 2.

News Quiz: Rain-rich, faucet-famine: The irony of Boulder Creek's ongoing water woes



Question 6: Since the recalls of council members Chris Krohn and Drew Glover what has the city's political consensus been?

-Moderate

Question 7: Which council member has been representing the leftmost perspective among local decision-makers?

-Sandy Brown

Question 8: What did a local caller have to say about the progressive ideologies in Santa Cruz County and who were they?

-The local caller, Nora, who worked with Chen Mills, said that the dismantling of progressive attitudes has been a long time in the making.

Question 9: What do you think a "death kneel" is politically speaking? And do you think from what you know, seen, and read during this primary election that progressives in Santa Cruz county are less common?

Opinion based answer:

-A death kneel is the sound of a bell to mark someone's death. In this case it marks the death/decline of progressives in Santa Cruz.

-Answers should include the student's opinion on the livelihood of progressive ideas and the party from what they have read in this article or others.

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Question 10: Should the city encourage developers to build and increase housing supply and try to meet demand? Or does the city pass stricter regulations and require greater inclusion of affordable housing in private developments?

Opinion based answer:

-Answers should include: the students' opinion on whether the city should encourage developers to build/increase the housing supply or if they should pass stricter regulations.