



Lookout
SANTA CRUZ

NEWS QUIZ

Lesson Plan

'SO MANY ISSUES, SO LITTLE CARDBOARD': THOUSANDS TURN OUT WAVING FLAGS AND SIGNS FOR 'HANDS OFF' RALLIES IN SANTA CRUZ AND WATSONVILLE



Quick Take

A gathering at the county courthouse drew an estimated 4,000 people in Santa Cruz, while another 300 converged on Watsonville's downtown plaza to protest the actions of President Donald Trump's second administration.

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.

Instructions

Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations.

Question 1

What does an upside-down flag mean?

A symbol of distress

Question 2

What is DOGE? What does it stand for? And who is the leader of DOGE?

1. The Department of Government Efficiency is an initiative of the second Trump administration tasked with cutting federal spending which it characterizes as "waste, fraud, and abuse". It emerged from discussions between Donald Trump and Elon Musk, and was established by executive order on January 20, 2025.
2. Department Of Government Efficiency
3. Elon Musk

Question 3

How many other protests happened in the US?

About 1,000.

Question 4

What was the goal of this protest?

“Organizers said the coordinated effort was meant to communicate the wide range of interests and issues that are under attack by Trump and the Elon Musk-led Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).”

Question 5

Name one of the speakers who spoke at the event. Who are they and what did they say or talk about?

- Ayo Banjo: Local activist who hosted the program
- Justin Cummings: District 3 County Supervisor
- Gail Pellerin: Assembly Member
- Elaine Johnson: Local NAACP president: read verbatim from Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1967 “Revolution of Values” speech
- “Krazy George” Henderson: Local icon: led the crowd in performing the Wave
- Curtis Reliford: Dance and played music from his famously star-spangled trailer truck. “Santa Cruz is the model for the whole United States,” he said.
- Speakers led the crowd in “Hands off!” chants.

Question 6

Why are these protests happening across the country?

The nationwide rallies are largely a response of liberal outrage at a number of Trump administration actions and initiatives.

Question 7

State Senator John Laird was also in attendance. What did he say about the situation and what did he compare it to?

When asked what he thought of the anger aimed at the Democratic Party by many in the general public in the weeks and days leading up to Saturday's rally, Laird likened the moment to the fight against AIDS in the 1980s, in which activists were all divided into various groups and factions. "We were all angry at each other then, too," he said.

Question 8

Where else in Santa Cruz county was there a Hands Off protest? How many people came?

Watsonville, about 300 people were in attendance

Question 9

Who are Farris Sabbah and Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah? What did Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah say about immigrants who come to the United States? What did Farris Sabbah say about the current government? (quote them verbatim)

1. Farris Sabbah is the County Superintendent of Schools and Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah is the vice president of student services at Cabrillo College
2. Baltazar-Sabbah said: "Immigrants don't come here looking for handouts. They come with hope, strength and dreams,"
3. "We have a government that not only has renounced this responsibility to help those most in need. We now have a government that actively and deliberately targets the people." Sabbah pointed to efforts by the Trump administration to demand that schools and community organizations fill out loyalty pledges or risk losing funding. "They are destroying our institutions, but they cannot destroy our resolve." Sabbah also encouraged the crowd to continue to take action and fight for justice.



CRITICAL THINKING

Question 10

Have you participated in a protest before? What are your thoughts on this protest and what it stands for?

Answers should include the student's opinion and their thoughts on the protest and if have participated in a protest before.

Question 11

What do you think "Hands Off" means in the context of these protests and why is it important to the message of the protestors?

1. Answers should include the student's opinion on the meaning of "Hands Off" and why they believe it's important to the messaging of the protest.
 - a. Hands off in this context typically refers to how the current government, specifically DOGE should keep their "hands off" social services, which protestors and many others claim are essential to the United States and its people.