

**Teachers Gone Virtual:
Episode 1: Robert's Insights on Newsela**

Key Screenshots

During this episode, Robert Elsinger discusses key features of the Newsela platform, including assigning articles with Quizzes and Power Words, adding specific instructions when assigning articles, and how to annotate the texts. A visual breakdown about these key features are shown and explained in screenshots below. **These screenshots are from a "sandbox" created to mimic Robert's class. Real student data is not used.**

NEWSELA SAMPLE LANDING PAGE

The screenshot shows the Newsela website's landing page. At the top left is the Newsela logo. The navigation bar includes: Search, Distance Learning, News, Library, Subjects, Your Content, Binder, RR (circled in red), and Educator Center. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column features an article titled "Cheesehenge" with a photo of cheese blocks on a tray. The middle column has a "Distance Learning with Newsela" section with a lightbulb icon and a "Register Now" button. The right column is titled "Explore: Good News" and lists three articles: "Supper clubs connect cultures" (ARTS), "High school making masks" (KIDS), and "College kids help Meals on Wheels" (HEALTH). Each article has an "Assign" button.

Scroll down to next page.

POWER WORDS AND QUIZZES

Not all articles contain Power Words and/or quizzes. The Power Words activity is identified on an article as a lightning bolt; Quizzes are identified as light bulbs. Notice the article, "College Kids Help Meals on Wheels," shows both a light bulb (Quiz) and lightning bolt (Power Words). The two other articles only offer quizzes.



KIDS 

High school making masks

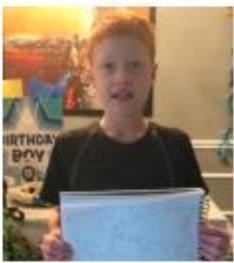
  [Assign](#) ▾



HEALTH 

College kids help Meals on Wheels

   [Assign](#) ▾



KIDS 

Birthday boy gets worldwide wishes

  [Assign](#) ▾

Scroll down to next page.

Power Words and Quizzes for the article are located under a right tab, 'Activities.' This is where you can preview these materials for your students, especially if you want to provide specific instructions before assigning the reading.

The screenshot shows the Newsela interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, a search icon, and menu items: 'Distance Learning', 'News', 'Library', 'Subjects', 'Your Content', 'Binder', 'RR', and 'Educator Center'. Below the navigation bar, there are two buttons: '1040L' and 'Assign Again'. On the left side, there is a sidebar with 'Assignments' and 'College kids help Meals on Wheels' by 'Robert Elsinger Classroom'. Below this, a list of users who have not viewed the article is shown. The main content area displays the article title 'College kids fill in as Meals on Wheels volunteers stay home amid coronavirus' under the category 'Health'. Below the title are icons for 'Present', 'Save', 'Share', 'Hide', 'Print', and 'Add To Text Set'. An image of food delivery containers is shown. On the right side, there is a 'Activities' panel with a close button 'X'. The panel lists 'ELA' and three activity options: 'Power Words' (with a lightning bolt icon), 'Write' (with a pencil icon), and 'Quiz' (with a lightbulb icon).

Power Words are Tier-2 vocabulary terms that appear in bold green within the article. Click on the Power Word to read or hear a definition.

This screenshot is a close-up of the article text. The title 'A Good Way To Help' is visible. The text reads: 'In Mercer County, 60 delivery volunteers have stepped back and 45 new volunteers have taken their place. They include about 20 college students. Now on Mondays, Nate Byrnes, age 21 and a **biology** major at the College of New Jersey, delivers the food.' A green callout box with a white arrow points to the word 'biology' and contains the text 'Explore POWER WORDS'. Below this, the text continues: '"I was trying to figure out something, anything, that I could do to help," said Byrnes. Byrnes wants to become a doctor and was close to being certified as an emergency medical technician. When the coronavirus hit, he felt frustrated thinking about all of the ways he could be helping if only he were further along in his education. "All of the ambulance squads are totally overwhelmed," he said. "ERs are totally overwhelmed."' On the right side, there is a button with a left-pointing arrow and the text 'Activities'.

You will find a low-stakes Power Words quiz under 'Activities.' By participating in this activity, students practice using these vocabulary terms in a variety of contexts.

The screenshot shows the Newsela interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, a search bar, and various menu options: Distance Learning, News, Library, Subjects, Your Content, Binder, and RR (circled in red), and Educator Center. Below the navigation bar, there are two buttons: '1040L' and 'Assign Again'. The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Assignments' (College kids help Meals on Wheels) and 'Robert Elsinger Classroom'. Below this, there is a list of users who have not viewed the article: Brian Diaz, John Morrow, Melinda Hardy, Katherine Roberts, Steven Hernandez, Pamela Gross, Lance Allen, Elizabeth Owen, Jeffrey Brown, Billy Robinson, Jonathan Christensen, and Isaac Wood. The main reading passage is titled 'A Good Way To Help' and discusses college students stepping in to fill the gap for Meals on Wheels. A green callout box says 'Explore POWER WORDS' pointing to the word 'biology'. On the right, there is a 'Power Words' quiz interface. It shows 'Question 1 of 10' and 'Score 0pts'. The question is 'Which word goes with "learning about animals"?'. The correct answer is 'biology'.

You may also preview Quizzes in Activities. This is especially helpful if you want to provide specific instructions for students when you assign them the reading.

The screenshot shows the Newsela interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, a search bar, and various menu options: Distance Learning, News, Library, Subjects, Your Content, Binder, and RR (circled in red), and Educator Center. Below the navigation bar, there are two buttons: '1040L' and 'Assign Again'. The main content area is divided into three sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Assignments' (College kids help Meals on Wheels) and 'Robert Elsinger Classroom'. Below this, there is a list of users who have not viewed the article: Brian Diaz, John Morrow, Melinda Hardy, Katherine Roberts, Steven Hernandez, Pamela Gross, Lance Allen, Elizabeth Owen, Jeffrey Brown, Billy Robinson, Jonathan Christensen, and Isaac Wood. The main reading passage is titled 'A Good Way To Help' and discusses college students stepping in to fill the gap for Meals on Wheels. A blue callout box says 'Full-screen Snip'. On the right, there is a 'Grade 7, Anchor 2: Central Idea' quiz preview. The question is 'Which two of the following sentences from the article include CENTRAL ideas of the article?'. The options are: 1. He is 85 and she is 83, putting them in the high-risk category for the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19. 2. However, three-quarters of the volunteers who deliver the meals are over 55 years old and must stay home. 3. She said the older volunteers "email me in anguish" about not being able to work, but they are happy to hear that younger people are stepping up. 4. In recent weeks, the rules for delivering meals have changed, and while meals are...

ANNOTATIONS

Students can highlight text and annotate thoughts by right clicking and highlighting wherever they want in the text. A pop-up bar appears to the right that allows them to choose their highlight color, make notes, and share. The teacher can review these annotation and post questions and/or comments to the students.

Assignments

College kids help Meals on Wheels

Robert Elsinger
Classroom

Has Not Viewed Article

- Brian Diaz
- John Morrow
- Melinda Hardy
- Katherine Roberts
- Steven Hernandez
- Pamela Gross
- Lance Allen
- Elizabeth Owen
- Jeffrey Brown
- Billy Robinson
- Jonathan Christensen
- Isaac Wood

Full-screen Snip

eight years. Now, though, they are homebound themselves. He is 85 and she is 83, putting them in the high-risk category for the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

In most cases, the coronavirus causes mild symptoms, such as a fever and cough. For some groups, though, such as the elderly or those with existing health conditions, the illness can be more serious.

Millions of elderly Americans depend on Meals on Wheels for their nourishment.

However, three-quarters of the volunteers who deliver the meals are over 55 years old and must stay home.

So college students are stepping in to fill the gap.

A Good Way To Help

In Mercer County, 60 delivery volunteers have stepped back and 45 new volunteers have taken their place. They include about 20 college students.



Activities

RobertElsinger
RobertElsinger
Saved 12:28 PM



Most volunteers are in a dangerous age group, so younger people are providing the meals.

SHARE DELETE