

HUMANITIES (ELA, SOCIAL STUDIES, WORLD LANGUAGES, AND ESL) APPLICATIONS (ALL FREE)

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- **The Learning Network (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.common sense.org/education/website/the-learning-network>

Concept(s): discussion, reading, reading comprehension, text analysis, citizenship, cultural understanding, global awareness, government

Description: There's not a more trusted name in the newspaper business than *The New York Times*, and its site for educators--The Learning Network--lives up to that reputation by providing a rich, engaging resource for learning about and thinking through the current events of the day. Great features include a word of the day, a cloze-based fill-in-the-blanks news story activity, a visual thinking activity that poses an image with questions of inference and comprehension, and even the Six Questions, which regularly use embedded video and audio. The Learning Network is a place built for student voices, with an entire area dedicated to inviting students to add their own thoughts to news stories. Young people have taken up the challenge, as evidenced by active conversation on the site. For teachers in states that have adopted the Common Core, the site provides a reliable place to make connections with reading, writing, and content-area topics from social studies and science.

- **uVocab (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.common sense.org/education/user/login?destination=node/3822776>

Concept(s): vocabulary

Description: *uVocab* can help kids learn challenging vocabulary words and their definitions. In the Learn Words module, students can browse words, scrolling through the definitions and clicking the sound icon to hear the pronunciation. Hearing the word is especially helpful for making sense of the word in context, though such a tool would not be available in most testing situations. In the Browse function, kids have the option of jumping to a certain letter or starting from the beginning or end of the list. There is no search function to find a specific word, though. The app does not have a teacher dashboard, nor does it offer log-ins or multiple users, so each student needs a device to make the most of *uVocab*.

- **Youth Voices (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.common sense.org/education/website/youth-voices>

Concept(s): discussion, presenting to others, writing, events, global awareness

Description: The teachers behind Youth Voices carefully built and nurtured this site over many years. The result is a vibrant home for young writers seeking an authentic audience and a space to publish writing across a wide range of genres. The site is essentially a social networking space, so students can easily align their interests and make meaningful connections with other young writers. The commenting feature on posts opens up a range of discussions, and writing at the site can be very powerful. Students touch on issues ranging from the environment and politics to personal narrative stories and video gaming. Some students also add multimedia components

such as videos. For teachers, the community of other educators on Youth Voices can be a powerful support group.

- **Khan Academy (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Concept(s): reading, vocabulary, assessments, and video reinforcement in all subject areas.

Description: Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization created in 2006 by educator Salman Khan with a goal of creating a set of online tools that help educate students. The organization produces short lessons in the form of YouTube videos. Khan Academy's website aims to provide a personalized learning experience, mainly built on the videos which are hosted on YouTube. The website is meant to be used as a supplement to its videos, because it includes other features such as progress tracking, practice exercises, and teaching tools. The material can also be accessed through mobile applications. The videos display a recording of drawings on an electronic blackboard, which are similar to the style of a teacher giving a lecture. The narrator describes each drawing and how they relate to the material being taught.

***World Languages and ESL Specific Apps**

- **Duolingo (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.duolingo.com/>

Concept(s): Language Learning

Description: is a freemium language-learning platform that includes a language-learning website and app, as well as a digital language proficiency assessment exam.

- **FluentU (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: www.fluentu.com

Concept(s): Language Learning

Description: Language immersion is the key to learning a foreign language. **FluentU** brings language learning to life through language immersion with real-world videos.

***History Specific Apps** (click name link and you will be redirected to Apple or Google Play Store)

- [World Atlas](#) (For Grades 6-12)

Geography tends to be a difficult subject: memorizing countries' placings and capital cities. And, if the teacher is very stringent, students must memorize countries' flags as well. It's a lot to learn and be expected to remember for teenagers. But, World Atlas has it all included in its maps. It even extends into human geography, giving information and tables on Olympic data, demographics, travel info, and weather info. It even includes a "street view" and a quiz mode.

- Constitution for iPad (For Grades 7-12)

One of the most daunting units of social studies for any student is the Constitution. Taking time to read this 250 + year old document and actually understand it is quite the task for teenagers. However, this app not only has the entire Constitution but also more in-depth information about the document. There is also the ability to take notes in the margins and interactive quizzes to make sure students understand the concepts in the Constitution.

- News-O-Matic School Edition (For Grades 7-12)

To keep students up to date, involved with current events and politics, teachers typically have students read and report on newspaper articles. This app provides articles at numerous reading levels and even has each article in Spanish. Another accommodation is that each article can fully be read aloud by a narrator. Images, videos, informative maps, and illustrations are included with many articles. Students can highlight articles when they are learning to annotate and save and print articles.

- Social Studies Friendly (For Grades 6-12)

Social Studies Friendly has numerous games to complement the learning standards of social studies. There are videos and articles, as well as live tutors to help students learn more about states and capitals, US government and history, citizenship, and much more. Students can even play multiplayer games.

- iCivics (For Grades 6-12)

One of the premier websites for civics and citizenship units, iCivics, Inc. now has its individual games as apps. Students can learn how to be a proactive citizen, how to run for the presidency, how to create an executive order, craft laws, win law arguments, and much more with these interactive, easy-to-understand, educational games.

- **Brainscape (For Grades 6-12)**

Site: <https://www.brainscape.com/>

Concept: Study Skills

Description: Brainscape's online flashcards app applies decades of cognitive science research to make studying as efficient as humanly possible.



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