

Launch NEWSHOUR

In your school or community



NewsHour is an interactive forum where middle school and high school students gather to watch and discuss current events through news programming. The purpose of NewsHour is to present students with the opportunity to share their opinions on important current events with their peers around the world and encourage creative thinking on solutions to global issues. Teach on the Beach International provides the forum for communities around the world to have voices heard.

The keys to a successful NewsHour in your community are a facilitator who is humble and patient and an environment which is safe and non-judgmental. Students watch the news for 60 minutes before engaging in a 30-60 minute discussion. They are the engine that drives the program and it's their inquiries and interests that direct the discussion following the viewing. While the students are the engine of NewsHour, the facilitator is the steering wheel. It is the facilitator's responsibility to maintain a safe environment which encourages students to speak up.

Founding and running NewsHour in Ghana, West Africa for over four years, Teach on the Beach International is excited to see schools around the world adopt this simple and effective program. Teach on the Beach will connect each new group using Facebook and Skype, specifically organizing times for students from the US to connect with our students in Ghana.

Below we have listed the important steps to starting NewsHour in your school or community.

- 1) Choose a humble and patient adult to act as Facilitator. The right facilitator is very important so make this decision carefully. After you chosen, make sure your facilitator reads the attached Facilitator Guidelines.
- 2) Materials needed:
 - a. Access to local & international news. In Ghana we watch Aljazeera English and in the US we watch PBS NewsHour, but the news you watch is up to you.
 - b. Notebooks
 - c. World maps/globe
 - d. Dictionary
 - e. Internet connection
- 3) Choose a convenient time(s) to discuss every week. In Ghana we watch and discuss news every day, but this is not always feasible. We strongly encourage all NewsHour participants to watch the news and take notes at least twice a week. (Once you start you will be watching everyday!)

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- 4) Write your own rules. The five elements listed below must be included in your rules, but we highly recommend each group take a little bit of time to openly discuss the rules as it is a great way to encourage the open discussion that will make your NewsHour successful.
 - a. No talking while news is being watched
 - b. Note taking is mandatory
 - c. Respect yourself and others
 - d. One voice at a time
 - e. Participation is mandatory

- 5) Connect by posting reports, thoughts, and questions to other students on **Teach on the Beach NewsHour Facebook Group (newshour@groups.facebook.com)**

We recommend watching the news together because it creates a more comfortable environment for an exchange of ideas instead of feeling like homework. Students may watch or read the news on their own at home since watching together is not always feasible.