

# STUDENT PERFORMANCE SOARS AS SOURCES BECOME MORE CURRENT

## Gale's Student Resources and Opposing Viewpoints In Context:

Developing a resource strategy to help improve learning outcomes.

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Trevor Foglesong  
Librarian, Upland High School  
Upland, CA

## BACKGROUND

As the landscape of education is shifting to support changes in curriculum, the need to access the most up-to-date information becomes all that more important. To answer this need and achieve state performance standards, Upland High School—a 2017 California Gold Ribbon School<sup>1</sup>—began providing Gale resources to its 3,300+ students.<sup>1</sup>

## ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

### MAKING THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL

Trevor Foglesong, a second-year librarian and technology lead at Upland, said that the school struggled with outdated print references, encyclopedias, and textbook resources. "Teachers sometimes had to relent and allow students to use online encyclopedias for source information," said Foglesong. "We often encouraged students to access the Gale resources available at the public library, but that wasn't enough."

Realizing there was a big need to have more current materials to meet curriculum standards, the school purchased *Student Resources In Context*. "I used academic databases in college," said Foglesong. "I knew that it made a lot of sense to have Gale products since students were using G Suite for Education. Also, teachers were looking for current research material, which *In Context* databases provided."

*Student Resources In Context* is designed to reinforce development skills and offers cross-curricular content aligned to national standards and Common Core State Standards. It features over 150 reference publications, full-text newspapers and periodicals, maps, hundreds of thousands of images, videos, audio selections, and archival materials.

Problem solved, right? Well, not quite. As the students began diving into research, Foglesong said there still was a deficit when it came to argumentative writing. To address this need, *Opposing Viewpoints In Context* was purchased. As a cross-curricular product, it focuses on today's hottest social issues. With more than 20,000 pro/con viewpoints and 19,000+ reference articles included, it's a rich resource for debaters.

more 

<sup>1</sup>Source: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/sr/gr/>

*“Students are pleasantly surprised that the article is in their Google Drive once they download it ... that content gets pushed for storage to their G Suite for Education resources ... and that the citations are in EasyBib and are formatted and ready to turn in. They are realizing what reliable sources, properly cited, are all about.”*

Trevor Foglesong  
Librarian,  
Upland High School

## ■ BRIDGING THE GAP

### INTEGRATING CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

Since students began using these products, Foglesong said that teachers started seeing bibliographies with more reliable sources. And the teachers themselves started using the resources as part of class assignments—especially with the argumentative content available through *Opposing Viewpoints In Context*. In fact, he said one AP Seminar teacher uses this as a main part of his curriculum. He puts assignments in Google Classroom using G Suite for Education tools accessed from the database. He then uses Gale products and topic pages as his textbooks.

## ■ THE RESULT

### MAKING HISTORY

Foglesong said, “Whenever kids have more reliable sources, their grades are better.” As the school’s Google admin and technology lead, he has seen firsthand how well students and faculty operate within Google Classroom.

Last year, Upland High School excelled at the San Bernardino County History Day competition. According to the school’s website, “... **Upland Unified had the highest number of group and individual county champions with 25 out of 27 champions in all—all from Upland High School.**” Foglesong said in order to compete, the students had to have 30+ cited sources on their research papers. With *Opposing Viewpoints In Context*, students are not only fulfilling the Common Core State Standards requirement for argumentative writing, they now have an online resource that makes sense to them and has the information they need.

**Upland High School can now proudly say that, for the second year in a row, a team from their school has advanced to the National History Day Contest!**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE PRODUCTS

 [gale.com/incontext](http://gale.com/incontext)