

# NEWS BREAK

**Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Friday, November 4th, 2016** print replica of The Seattle Times for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students. This weeks' article references suicide, which might be a triggering subject for some students.**

**Article: Social-media pressure a factor as suicides in adolescent's rise (News, A1)**

**Objective:** Students will analyze the influence of social media on adolescent suicide.

**Standards:**

**Washington State Health Education K-12 Learning Standard, Standard 2:** Students will analyze the influence of family, peers, culture, media, technology, and other factors on health behaviors.

## Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

- Do you use social media? If so, how do you think social media influences you emotionally?

**Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

1. accumulating	1. to prove that something is based on truth or fact, or is acceptable.
2. adolescents	2. a group, aggregation, or cluster lacking organization
3. amplifies	3. express or measure the quantity of.
4. destabilizing	4. acquisition or gradual gathering of something.
5. exacerbating	5. to cause (something, such as a government) to be unable to continue existing or working in the usual or desired way
6. gaggle	6. to increase the severity, bitterness, or violence of (disease, ill feeling, etc.); aggravate
7. pervasiveness	7. never done or known before.
8. quantify	8. spreading widely throughout an area or a group of people

9. unprecedented	9. the period following the onset of puberty during which a young person develops from a child into an adult.
10. validation	10. cause to become more marked or intense.

### Comprehension

- 1) In 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, the suicide rate for children ages 10 to 14 had caught up to their death rate for what? Traffic accidents
- 2) What has changed tremendously from 20 years ago? Cultural norms
- 3) The crossing-over point was reached for what two reasons? Because suicide had spiked, and because fatal traffic accidents had declined
- 4) Far more \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_ killed themselves in 2014. Boys, girls
- 5) Social media tends to exacerbate what? The challenges and insecurities girls are already wrestling with at that age, possibly heightening risks
- 6) Social media exponentially amplifies humiliation. Why is this a problem? An unformed, vulnerable child who is humiliated is at much higher risk of suicide than she would otherwise have been
- 7) What is being diagnosed more often these days? Depression

### Group Discussion Questions or Extension Activity:

Research and identify risk factors that contribute to suicide risk. You might want to also outline warning signs that might suggest someone is contemplating suicide. What are some ways that you think suicide can be prevented? What are some resources that might be helpful if someone you know might be contemplating suicide?

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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### Newsbreak Answer Key: November 2, 2016

### Vocabulary

- A. 4
- B. 9
- C. 10
- D. 5
- E. 6
- F. 2
- G. 8

- H. 3
- I. 7
- J. 1

### **Comprehension Answers**

- 1) Traffic accidents
- 2) Cultural norms
- 3) Because suicide had spiked, and because fatal traffic accidents had declined
- 4) Boys; girls
- 5) The challenges and insecurities girls are already wrestling with at that age, possibly heightening risks
- 6) An unformed, vulnerable child who is humiliated is at much higher risk of suicide than she would otherwise have been
- 7) Depression