



## Free Speech Lesson

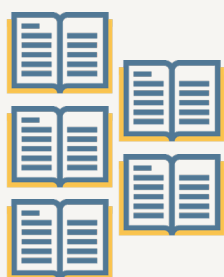
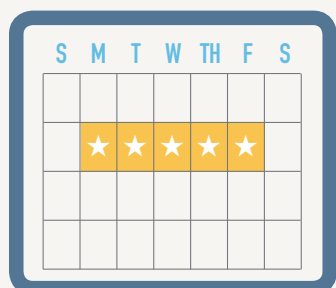
### ■ WHAT IS IT?

In [Nieuws in de Klas](#), which translates to “[News in the Classroom](#),” students pretend to be dictators and pick newspaper articles to censor. That and other “Roadshow” [activities](#) help students learn media literacy and the role of newspapers. Project goals include developing an understanding of freedom of expression and “world citizenship.”



### ■ Nieuws in de klas

Het educatieplatform van NDP Nieuwsmedia

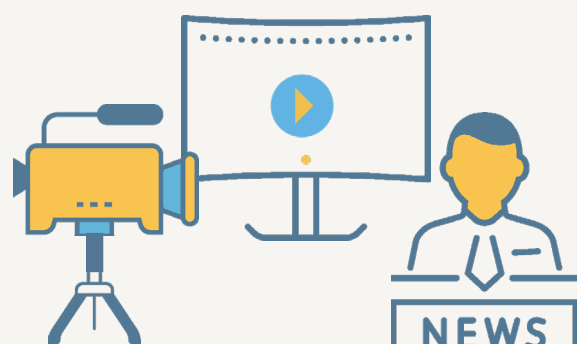


### ■ WHO'S BEHIND IT?

[Nieuws in de Klas](#), supported by the Dutch News Media Association, partners with [Ppress](#), [Media.21](#) and [Mediawijs](#). Similarly, in France, CLEMI gives publications to schools and promotes a week of news literacy, focusing in recent years (after the Charlie Hebdo attacks) on “[Freedom of Expression](#).” In the U.S., press freedom education comes from [Freedom Forum Institute](#), [The News Literacy Project](#), the [Bill of Rights Institute](#) and many others.

### ■ DOES IT WORK?

Academic [studies](#) argue that “bad guy play” (such as the “dictator” exercise) can teach complex concepts, including [morality](#). A [national report](#) on the Dutch project said the classroom provided a safe space for younger students to learn how news works and older students to debate types of free speech. U.S. [studies](#) show students with heavy media use and class instruction regarding free press are more savvy and supportive of free expression.



### ■ HOW TO DO IT

Organizers created a short [video](#) to explain the roadshow. The [Roadshow](#)'s censorship exercise is “a very [popular activity](#).” Teachers can choose from “[news packages](#)” and “digital packages” to receive access to newspapers and magazines and news websites. Students receive newspapers at home for two weeks as part of the project. A local reporter often visits the classroom to moderate an open discussion.