

Episode Six: From Journalists to Kobe Bryant *(originally aired 3/01/2020)*

VIEWING & DISCUSSION GUIDE

TARGET AUDIENCE

English and Language Arts, Social Studies, Media Studies, Social Emotional Learning, Environmental Science: Ages 11–14

EPISODE THEMES

- Human Rights
- Media Consumption
- Education Policy
- Human Resilience

U.S. EDUCATION STANDARDS

Media Literacy

ISTE 1.c. Use technology to seek feedback that informs and improves their practice and to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

ISTE 7.a. Use digital tools to connect with learners from a variety of backgrounds and cultures, engaging with them in ways that broaden mutual understanding and learning.

ISTE 7.d. Explore local and global issues and use collaborative technologies to work with others to investigate solutions.

**English and Language Arts
Reading Informational Texts**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.7
Integrate information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.7
Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

EPISODE OVERVIEW

Produced by the BBC World Service, *My World* is a program for tweens and teens who want to know more about the key stories and issues shaping our world. Episode Six showcases a variety of thought-provoking topics, including:

- Whether **exams** are the best way to test students.
- The large-scale detention of **Uighur Muslims** by the Chinese government.
- In the face of denial by Chinese authorities, how **journalists uncovered the truth** behind the arrest and detainment of one million Uighurs in Xinjiang, China.
- The global influence of **Kobe Bryant** and the impact that his death had on our youth.

NOTE: This episode covers multiple topics. If you want to take a deeper dive into a particular topic from this episode, head over to our chaptered segments. Each segment is 3-5 minutes and includes a list of prompts to engage your students in the topic covered in that segment.

- Are Exams the Best Way to Test Students?
- Journalists Uncover the Truth About Uighurs in China
- A Tribute to Kobe

PREVIEWING DISCUSSION

Suggested prompts include:

- Why do you think many education institutions rely on exams to measure learning outcomes?
- How can journalists uncover the truth when governments do not cooperate in providing accurate facts and access?
- What do you know about Uighur Muslims?
- What were Kobe Bryant’s contributions to basketball and to society?

POST VIEWING DISCUSSION

Suggested prompts include:

- In what professions might it be appropriate to have traditional exams and assessments? In what professions might it be inappropriate?
- What do you think accounts for the academic success of students in Finland and Singapore, considering their limited, or lack of, testing?
- How did BBC journalists piece together the existence of prisons or concentration camps in Xinjiang province in China?
- Why do you think some of the sources interviewed by BBC journalist John Sudworth maintained their anonymity even though they were living outside of China?

National Council for the Social Studies Themes

5. Individual, Groups, and experiences that provide for the study of interactions among individuals, groups, and institutions.

7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

9. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of global connections and interdependence.

10. Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of the ideals, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic republic.

Next Generation Science Standards

MS-ESS3-2 Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

MS-ESS3-5 Ask questions to clarify evidence of the factors that have caused the rise in global temperatures over the past century.

CASEL Core Competencies— Collaborating States Initiatives

Social Awareness: The ability to take the perspective of and empathize with others, including those from diverse backgrounds and cultures. The ability to understand social and ethical norms for behavior and to recognize family, school, and community resources and supports.

Responsible Decision Making: The ability to make constructive choices about personal behavior and social interactions based on ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms. The realistic evaluation of consequences of various actions, and a consideration of the wellbeing of oneself and others.

- How do you think the pandemic and economic concerns might affect international attention for the plight of the Uighurs in China?
- Were you surprised by Kobe Bryant's influence around the world? Why or why not?

INFOBASE SUGGESTED RESOURCES

For additional instructional opportunities, Infobase suggests reviewing these resources.

EXTEND AND CONNECT

1. When did standardized testing become standard practice in education? Students can research how the SATs evolved from military use of IQ levels in the early 20th century. Additionally, students can understand when and how the federal government required mandatory testing in all states. Finally, students can analyze how the Coronavirus pandemic impacted annual testing in the United States or in their region.
2. In 2018, BBC Newsnight reported that Xinjiang province is “the most heavily monitored place on earth.” Lead students to research how technology has been used to create a surveillance state in Xinjiang. Additionally, students can gain broader context for the crackdown on Uighurs by researching the geographical setting of Xinjiang, and China's ambitions to build the “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure.

Source: “Are Muslim Uyghurs being brainwashed by the Chinese state?” *BBC Newsnight*, 30 August 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DazSCxfUdE&feature=youtu.be. Accessed 6 November 2020.