



# **SERVING TEACHERS AND A DEMOCRATIC FUTURE**

**A project of  
Student Educational Exchange Inc.  
Northampton, Massachusetts**



# WELCOME

When we began just two years ago, our goal at Student Educational Exchange [SEE] was to inspire democracy, tolerant communication and peaceful exchanges among young people. Since 'going live' in 2007, we have had the privilege of supporting fabulous conversations among teens from across the United States, working with innovative teachers and much more.

SEEdebate is the first online resource to appeal to both teachers and students, and provide highly organized content, varied choices, flexibility and assessment support. Civics also got a boost from the enormous profile of the 2008 primary and presidential elections. The timing has been exciting and exhausting all at once.

Our debate forum is having an impact on the way teachers teach, the content they choose, their relationship to technology and their ability to bring the outside world into the classroom. SEEdebate is also having an impact on students by increasing their interest in the curriculum, their knowledge of the world and confidence in exchanging ideas about global and local issues.

We hope you enjoy reading our big picture thinking about the website that teachers, students and educational leaders are raving about! Please visit us online for all the details at [www.seedebate.org](http://www.seedebate.org) and contact us with your suggestions for partnerships, invitations to collaborate and offerings of next tier funding.

**Thank you for taking the time to learn about our organization!**

**“SEEdebate has provided me with the resources to expose my students to current events in a new and exciting way. The opportunity to interact and debate with peers around the country has been invaluable. I cannot thank you enough; you really have put together something remarkable.”**

**Josh Gagnon, ME, SEEdebate Teacher**

# BENEFITS

## A True 21st Century Resource with Reach

### Teachers respond to SEEd Debate because we provide

- Global news articles chosen daily by SEE staff
- Discussion prompts and links unique to each article
- Rigorous and dynamic content, categorized in familiar structure
- The best of online social networking, blogs and “packaged” online curriculum in ONE place
- A safe, monitored setting with password security and staff moderators
- Assessment tools for tracking students’ work
- Rubrics created specifically for use with SEEd Debate
- Flexibility to modify for individual classes and topics

### Technology coordinators and school Principals like that SEEd Debate

- Is affordable – no cost to teachers
- Meets state and federal curriculum requirements
- Teaches critical thinking skills
- Incorporates technology into the classroom
- Exposes students to news resources on the Internet
- Makes strong connections between world issues and students’ lives
- Encourages discussion among young people from diverse backgrounds within a class, a school or across the country, according to the teachers’ parameters.

**“Your site is very well thought out and I see enormous potential. My whole department is very excited.”**

**Michael Stapleton SEEd Debate Teacher**

**“It’s a pretty awesome site, and I know I actually don’t mind this homework.”**

**CRBasketball33, SEEd Debate Student**

# SUCCESS

Rapid growth, impact and recognition

## Provider of professional development training for teachers

- Teacher Support every day on the phone and online
- Online presentations and trainings for teachers at TappedIn.org
- National Council for Social Studies Conference 2007, presenter
- Connecticut Educators Computer Association Conference 2008, presenter
- Northeast Regional Conference on the Social Studies 2008, presenter

## Visibility

- *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer Online Extra*, PBS, current
- *The Social Studies Professional*, Winter 2008
- *Cable in the Classroom*, Campaign Planning, Fall 2008
- *Macalester Today*, Change Agents, Winter 2009
- Nearly 3,000 geographically diverse users representing 40 states and 6 countries



**“I really enjoyed using your site -- it really lends itself to creative assignments. Many of my kids expressed that they enjoyed SEEdebate in a blind questionnaire they completed. Therefore, I plan on continuing to incorporate this next year. Overall, great job. I would recommend this to any teacher!”**

**Pamela AuCoin SEEdebate Teacher**

# A USER FRIENDLY APPROACH THAT IS A

SEEdbate Teacher, Ms. Jolicoeur, creates an assignment for her class

**Ms. Jolicoeur**

- Forums
- Articles
- My Classes
- Contact SEE
- Create content
  - Assignment
  - Class
  - Exchange
  - My strand
  - Recent posts
  - My account
  - Chairs by Posts
  - Background Resources
  - Log out

**Home » Create content**

## Submit Assignment

Create an assignment for your students. You can specify which subject areas your students should focus on or choose specific articles they should discuss. You may also specify the type of participation, number of posts, and/or parameters for the quality of student comments. You will be able to track your students' discussion by specific post or by number in the "MY CLASSES"

Title of Assignment \*

Discussions to Participate In:

- [Merkel Government "Not-Functional"; Says Armed Services Committee Chair](#)
- [Volkswagen bus is ruled illegal](#)
- [Foreign Policy: Afghanistan: Obama's 20th birthday: democracy concerns](#)
- [\(VIDEO\) Talks, not war with Iran: Members of Congress including Ron Paul say there must be talks with Iran](#)
- [2009 Candidate Highlights: Biography: Barack Obama \(With Video\)](#)

Tell your Students where to post comments for this particular assignment.

Subject Areas to Focus On:

- ELECTION 2008
- Social Studies
- **World Affairs**
- ECONOMICS
- Culture and Geography
  - Culture and Geography
- Teacher Exchange
- Technology & Science
- Environment
- Health

**Concise, clear menu choices**

**Alphabetized list of articles, including the discussion questions, that we provide**

**Teachers can tailor the assignment with description, including links outside SEEdbate**

Detail of Assignment

Total votes: 177  
23 comments  
23 new comments

Order polls

**Current Headlines**

- [World leaders respond to election](#)
- [Costs of a busy country](#)
- [US election 20-a-gone 20 Oct](#)
- [Question state from a new to Web-based strategy](#)
- [Terror: Indonesia US and 95 'not of terrorist aggression'](#)
- [New York teachers are over 100 in company](#)
- [RE SOURCE: Where the Candidates Stand](#)
- [RE SOURCE: CNN Student News One-Sheet Political Issues](#)
- [Teacher's SEEdbate](#)

**Who's online**

There are currently 8 users and 105 guests online

**Online users**

- Ms. Jolicoeur
- Braulio\_Cuba
- MattB11
- Tyler\_Great to ...

Concise, clear menu choices

Alphabetized list of articles, including the discussion questions, that we provide

Teachers can choose to assign subject areas in addition to or instead of individual articles

Teachers can tailor the assignment with description, including links outside SEEdbate

# AS INTUITIVE AS IT IS INFORMATIONAL

Later, Ms. Jolicoeur can view individual students' comments



One click on the student's user name opens a window to track comments

Each comment can be edited or replied to directly from this screen

Teachers can track the specific comments of each student, scrolling through here

# GOALS

## The future and SEEd Debate's potential

### Technology

- Scale site to build capacity for increased user load and improve design
- Enhance the product with tools and features to increase ease of use and value
- Increase role as a leader in technology for civics education
- Hire full time Technology Coordinator

### Outreach

- Increase participation from low income school districts and populations outside the U.S.
- Increase teacher outreach and support
- Offer online and on-site professional development trainings for teachers
- Host gatherings for teachers to share experiences using SEEd Debate and generate future projects
- Establish collaborations and partnerships with aligned companies, professional organizations and state and federal agencies
- Forge partnerships for funding
- Hire part time Outreach Director

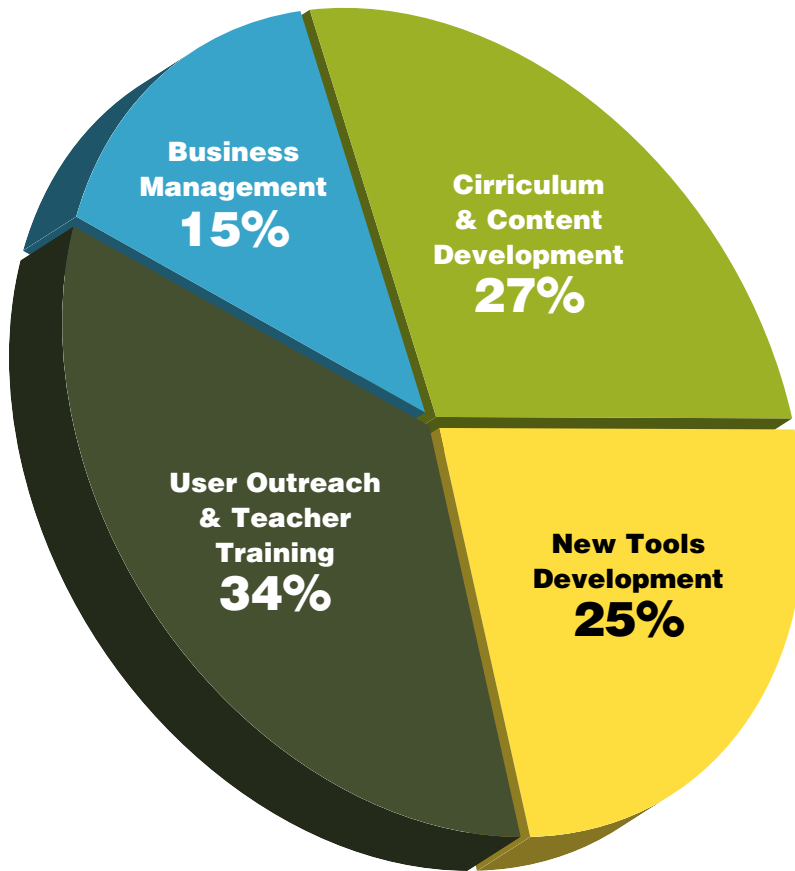
### Evaluation

- Partner with researchers and universities to evaluate the site
- Develop surveys to measure impact and usage

**“Ever since I started posting on SEEd Debate I’ve pretty much been hooked. I never realized how much you could enjoy arguing with others over articles. YEEAAHHHH!”**

**Cromdawg SEEd Debate Student**

# BUDGET



## PROGRAMS:

Curriculum & Content: \$67,000  
New Technology & Tools: \$62,000  
Training & Outreach: \$83,000

## SUPPORTING:

Business Management: \$38,000

**Annual Total: \$250,000**

“Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, and evaluate the many complex messages presented through the mass media. It focuses on helping young people, in particular, to not only become more careful and critical consumers of media messages so they can make more informed choices about their health, purchases, and values, but to also become creative producers of media to more effectively communicate their thinking, ideas, and priorities. Many schools, agencies, and community organizations are integrating media literacy content and strategies into their curricula and prevention programs to help counteract the pervasive and often negative influence of the mass media and to provide young people with opportunities to express themselves and communicate through their own production of media in a positive manner.”

Northeast Media Literacy Conference: University of Connecticut NEAG School of Education

# PEOPLE

If people are the spice of life, this staff is burning a hole in the world



**Ann Thomas, Executive Director**, guides the overall mission and vision of the organization. She has a background in business management and a passion for civic engagement and political consciousness.



**Meghan Connelly, Curriculum Director**, is a full-time Social Studies teacher in Connecticut. She creates engaging curriculum and research that aligns SEE's goals with emerging national education and technology standards.



**BethAnn Albro-Fisher, Strategic Outreach Director**, has been a middle school teacher, a program director for a national non-profit, a volunteer board member, fundraiser, and growth specialist for local organizations.

## BOARD:

**Eleanor Townsley**, Professor of Sociology at Mt. Holyoke College. Professor Townsley's research examines the possibilities of intellectual life in contemporary societies, with a focus on the institutional contexts and political consequences of intellectual practices. In 2005 Townsley was the recipient of the Mount Holyoke College Faculty Teaching Award.

**Richard and Donna Grimaldi**, Principals of Superior Rug Cleaning Corp. This married couple shares a position on the SEE board. Richard has a strong appreciation for the Internet as a learning resource and is eager to lend his entrepreneurial skills to guide SEE. Donna earned her BA in Education and is interested in helping educational non-profits.

**Sandra Swanson** Sandy is an experienced secondary science teacher and is excited about helping SEE expand content offerings into scientific areas.

## ADVISORS:

**Dr. John Veiga**, Northeast Utilities Chair in Ethics, UCONN

**Laurie Geronimo**, independent entrepreneur and non-profit adviser

**William C. Jolicoeur**, Chair, Judd Paper Company

**Thomas P. Weinland**, Professor of Instruction and Curriculum, UCONN

**“By using technology to bring students and teachers into contact with each other, SEE adds a powerful component to active learning. Social Studies learning is no longer confined to discussion with a student in the next row; students and teachers have access to the views of students from any part of the globe. SEE’s primary goal is to contribute to the effort to build responsible citizenship into the curriculum. This imaginative and thoughtful approach to integrating citizenship into Social Studies teaching deserves your support.”**

**Thomas P. Weinland, PhD Professor Emeritus, Curriculum and Instruction, Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut**





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*Thanks!*