



It's Going to Be a Great Year!

Dear Teachers,

I hope you've had a wonderful summer! At *Upfront*, we've been hard at work creating the kinds of articles and resources you've come to rely on to help your students understand—and think critically about—an increasingly complex world.

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Our first issue has loads of content that's sure to spark spirited class debate and reflection. Topics include the growing number of microplastics all around us and what they mean for our health; understanding the tensions between the U.S. and China; the rush to create humanoid robots for the home; and Martin Luther King Jr.'s efforts to eliminate Northern segregation.

Please reach out with any comments or questions. As always, I'd love to hear from you!

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEN KARP (ZACK)



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Staff Picks

"The microplastics video will help students better understand how the world around us affects our health."
—Lauren Vespoli,
Senior Editor

"This issue's primary source offers a firsthand account of how a 1962 Chicago school protest got started."
—Chrisanne Gris ,
Senior Editor

"Our Analyze the Cartoon activity asks students to think critically about the relationship between China, the United States, and Taiwan."
—Brian S. McGrath,
Senior Editor

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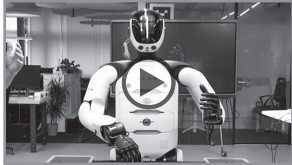



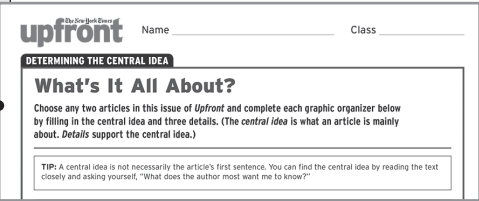



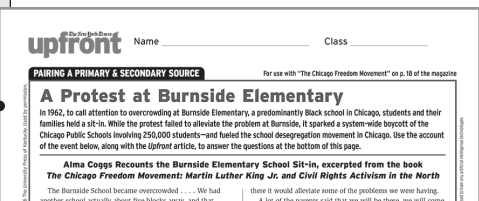

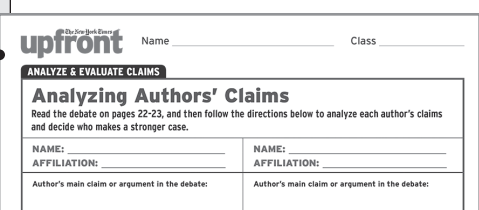
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9/1/25 Inside your issue at upfrontmagazine.com

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- * All quizzes and skill builders are printable.
- * All teaching materials are compatible with Google Classroom.

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ARTICLES		SUBJECT/NCSS	STANDARDS	FEATURED SKILLS	LEVELED TEXT	LESSON PLAN	TEXT-TO-SPEECH	SKILL-BUILDER ACTIVITIES	VIDEOS, ETC.
6 TECHNOLOGY A Robot in Your Kitchen? Tech companies are building humanlike robots to do your household chores. Would you live with one?		TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL STUDIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Science, Technology & SocietyTime, Continuity & Change	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10		✓ LOWER LEVEL		✓	SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion QuestionsAnalyze the PhotoInvestigate the News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This Humanoid Robot Could Help With Labor Gaps  REUTERS
8 ENVIRONMENT Plastic Planet How microplastics infiltrated the world—and our bodies		ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, HEALTH <ul style="list-style-type: none">People, Places & EnvironmentsScience, Technology & Society	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10	CLOSE READING	✓ LOWER LEVEL	✓	✓	QUIZ & SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Up Close (close reading)Article QuizAnalyze the GraphsDiscussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Microplastics Are in Our Brains  JEFFREY HAMILTON/PHOTODISC/GETTY IMAGES
12 SCIENCE Back From Oblivion? A company says it has revived an ancient wolf species. Is it a good idea?		ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Science, Technology & SocietyTime, Continuity & Change	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10		✓ LOWER LEVEL		✓	SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion QuestionsSummarizing 101What's It All About?	
14 INTERNATIONAL The U.S. vs. China Why are tensions rising between these two powerful nations, and what does it mean for the rest of the world?		GLOBAL STUDIES, WORLD HISTORY <ul style="list-style-type: none">Power, Authority & GovernanceGlobal Connections	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10	CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYZING QUOTATIONS	✓ LOWER LEVEL	✓	✓	QUIZ & SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Article QuizIn Their Own Words (analyzing quotations)Analyze the CartoonBe the Editor (grammar)Discussion Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">China and the U.S.  EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP IMAGES
18 TIMES PAST The Chicago Freedom Movement Sixty years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. set his sights on ending segregation in the North		U.S. HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Individuals, Groups & InstitutionsPower, Authority & Governance	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	PAIRING A PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCE	✓ LOWER LEVEL	✓	✓	QUIZ & SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Article QuizA Protest at Burnside Elementary (primary source)Organizing Ideas (outlining)Discussion Questions	
22 DEBATE Has Social Media Done More Harm Than Good? Two experts weigh in.		TECHNOLOGY, SOCIAL STUDIES <ul style="list-style-type: none">Individuals, Groups & InstitutionsIndividual Development & Identity	CCSS READING INFORMATIONAL TEXT: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 CCSS LITERACY IN HISTORY/SOCIAL STUDIES: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10	ANALYZING AUTHORS' CLAIMS		✓	✓	SKILL BUILDERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzing Authors' Claims	

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FEATURED VIDEO

China and the U.S.



QUIZZES

Test Your Knowledge

Quizzes about our articles on microplastics,
China, and the Chicago Freedom Movement



GRAPH

A Global Problem

A skills sheet with graphs about
plastic production and the countries
that export the most plastic waste

GLOBAL PLASTIC PRODUCTION, 1950–2023

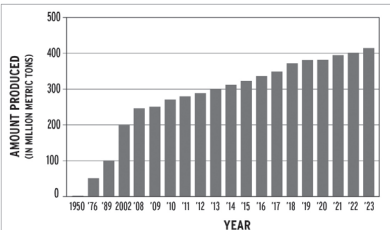


PHOTO ANALYSIS

A Robot Doing Dishes

Questions about an image of a humanoid
robot cleaning up in someone's home



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