SOFTWARE & TECH

Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week

PUBLISHED
November 25, 2026

REFERENCE
#1795583544826568

Unlocking Literacy: A Comprehensive Guide to the Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week

In the landscape of modern education, few challenges are as pressing as developing strong, independent readers. Teachers constantly seek effective, research-backed strategies to build background knowledge, improve critical thinking, and foster a genuine love for reading. One such powerful, low-prep, high-impact approach is the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** routine. Originally conceived by renowned educator and author Kelly Gallagher to address the decline in voluntary reading and the erosion of student background knowledge, this simple yet profound practice has transformed classrooms across the globe. But what exactly is it, and why has it become a cornerstone of effective literacy instruction? This comprehensive guide will explore the origins, structure, benefits, and implementation of the Kelly Gallagher Article of the Week, providing educators and homeschooling parents with everything they need to integrate this strategy into their teaching repertoire.

What Is the Kelly Gallagher Article Of the Week?

At its core, the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** is a structured literacy routine where students read one high-quality, real-world nonfiction article each week. The concept emerged from Gallagher's observation that many students, particularly in middle and high school, were not reading enough outside of class to build the vocabulary, background knowledge, and stamina necessary for academic success. Rather than assigning a full novel or textbook chapter, Gallagher proposed a more manageable, consistent weekly exposure to authentic texts—newspaper editorials, magazine features, scientific reports, or online opinion pieces. The articles are chosen for their relevance, complexity, and ability to spark discussion. Students annotate the text, respond to a prompt, and participate in class conversations, all while building critical literacy skills. The routine is not just about reading; it is about teaching students how to engage deeply with expository and argumentative writing, preparing them for college, career, and civic life.

The Origin Story: Kelly Gallagher's Vision

To fully appreciate the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** , it helps to understand its creator. Kelly Gallagher is a veteran high school English teacher and the author of influential books such as *Readicide: How Schools Are Killing Reading and What You Can Do About It* and *Teaching Adolescent Writers*. Gallagher has long argued that American schools are systematically "killing" the joy of reading by overemphasizing testing, literary analysis devoid of real-world connections, and assigning texts that are too difficult without proper scaffolding. He observed that students often graduate without ever having read an entire newspaper article, making them ill-prepared to navigate the complex information landscape of adulthood. The Article of the Week was born from a simple yet radical idea: give students something meaningful to read every single week, let them wrestle with it, talk about it, and write about it. The goal was not just to improve test scores but to create lifelong readers and informed citizens. Since its inception, the strategy has been adopted widely across grade levels, from upper

elementary to high school, and even adapted for college preparatory courses.

Key Components of the Article of the Week Routine

Implementing an effective **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** program involves more than just handing out a photocopied article. It requires careful selection, clear expectations, and purposeful follow-up. Below are the essential elements that make this routine work.

Selecting the Right Articles

The success of the entire practice hinges on text selection. Gallagher recommends choosing articles that are:

Relevant and Engaging: Topics should connect to current events, students' lives, or even high-interest areas like technology, sports, or pop culture. If students find the topic boring, they won't read deeply.

Rich in Vocabulary: Articles should contain academic language and tier-two words that stretch students' lexicons without overwhelming them.

Argumentative or Informational: Preferably, articles that present a viewpoint, allowing students to practice identifying claims, evidence, and reasoning.

Achievable in Length: Typically, 500–1000 words for middle school, and up to 1500 for high school, so students can finish within 15–20 minutes of focused reading.

Diverse in Perspective: Expose students to different cultural, political, and scientific viewpoints to build empathy and critical thinking.

Structuring the Weekly Routine

A typical week might look like this:

Monday: Introduce the article. Provide a brief context or video clip. Distribute the article and a structured annotation guide. Students read the article independently, marking unfamiliar words, underlining main ideas, and writing questions in the margins.

Tuesday: Discuss annotations in small groups. Students compare their reactions and clarify confusing parts. The teacher circulates, probing with questions like, "What evidence does the author use?" or "Do you agree with the main argument?"

Wednesday: Whole-class discussion or Socratic seminar. The teacher guides a conversation about the article's central thesis, use of evidence, and relevance to larger themes. This is where critical thinking deepens.

Thursday: Written response. Students write a one-page analysis, summary, or argumentative response. This can be done in class or as homework, depending on student stamina.

Friday: Share standout responses and reflect. The teacher chooses a few powerful excerpts to read aloud, celebrating strong writing. This reinforces the idea that their voices matter.

The Role of Annotation

Annotation is central to the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** methodology. Gallagher advocates for a simple, non-intrusive system: students circle unfamiliar words, underline the thesis, star surprising facts, and write questions in the margins. Over time, this forms a visible trail of their thinking. Annotations encourage active reading, improve retention, and serve as a built-in scaffolding for later writing. Many teachers provide a bookmark or handout with symbol cues, but the goal is to eventually build independence. As students become more adept, they begin to annotate automatically, internalizing the habit of metacognitive reading.

Why the Article of the Week Works: Benefits and Research

Educators who faithfully implement the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** report profound shifts in their

students' reading habits and academic confidence. The benefits are supported by cognitive science and literacy research.

Building Background Knowledge

One of Gallagher's core arguments is that students often fail at reading comprehension not because they cannot decode words, but because they lack the background knowledge to make sense of complex content. Each Article of the Week adds a new tile to a student's mental mosaic of the world. A student who reads one article on climate change, another on the electoral college, and another on artificial intelligence gradually builds a rich, interconnected knowledge base. This, in turn, makes future reading easier and more enjoyable—a virtuous cycle of learning.

Improving Critical Thinking and Argumentation

Because the articles are often argumentative, students practice identifying claims, evaluating evidence, and recognizing rhetorical devices. They learn to ask, "Why should I believe this author?" and "What is the author's bias?" These are transferable skills that elevate writing and discussion across all subjects. The weekly writing prompt forces students to articulate their positions clearly, a vital ability for college and career readiness.

Increasing Reading Stamina and Volume

Many students are conditioned to read only short, segmented passages for tests. The Article of the Week reintroduces sustained reading of a complete, authentic text. Over the course of a school year, students read 30–35 full articles, dramatically increasing the volume of nonfiction reading. This builds stamina, concentration, and confidence. Students who once struggled to sit through a single page often develop the ability to read and comprehend longer texts by spring.

Fostering a Classroom Culture of Inquiry

Discussions around the Article of the Week become the heart of the classroom. Because the topics are real and often controversial, students are motivated to speak. Shy students find their voice through annotation and small-group sharing. Teachers report more engaged debates, fewer discipline issues, and a palpable buzz of intellectual curiosity. The routine normalizes talking about ideas—an essential skill for democracy.

Practical Implementation Tips for Teachers

If you are ready to launch your own **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** program, a few practical strategies can help avoid common pitfalls and amplify success.

Start Small and Build Gradually

Do not overwhelm students in the first week. Begin with a shorter, high-interest article that requires minimal background knowledge. Model annotation explicitly—show students how you, as a reader, interact with the text. Allow for "think-alouds" where you vocalize your inner reading thoughts. For the first few weeks, the writing response can be a simple summary or a single paragraph. Gradually increase expectations as students grow comfortable with the routine.

Differentiate Without Dumbing Down

One of the beauties of the Article of the Week is its flexibility. For struggling readers, you can provide simplified versions, audio recordings, or paired reading with a partner. For advanced students, you can add a research extension or ask them to write a counterargument. The core text remains the same, ensuring all students are discussing the same ideas, just at different levels of depth. Avoid lowering the complexity of the article itself; instead, scaffold the process around it.

Connect to Broader Curriculum

Whenever possible, choose articles that align with your current unit of study—whether that's a history lesson on

the Great Depression, a science unit on genetics, or a novel study on dystopian literature. This cross-curricular approach reinforces learning and shows students that reading is not a separate subject but a tool for exploring the world. For example, a unit about the modern justice system can create powerful parallels.

Use Technology Wisely

Many teachers now use digital platforms to distribute articles. Google Classroom, Edmodo, or even a simple shared document can allow students to annotate using comment tools. However, Gallagher himself often advocates for paper copies because they slow students down and reduce digital distractions—something to consider based on your school's resources and student habits. If using digital, teach students how to highlight and comment effectively without getting lost in the screen.

Sample Article of the Week Topics and Sources

To get started, here are some tried-and-true topics that consistently engage students and align with the **Kelly Gallagher Article Of The Week** philosophy:

- Technology: "Should Social Media Have Age Limits?" or "The Rise of AI in School"
- Environment: "Plastic Pollution: Who Is Responsible?" or "The Debate Over Electric Cars"
- Health: "Is the Food Industry to Blame for Obesity?" or "The Science of Sleep in Teens"
- Society: "The Case for a Four-Day School Week" or "How Video Games Affect the Brain"
- Science: "Should We Colonize Mars?" or "Gene Editing and Ethics"

Excellent free resources include the New York Times Learning Network (which has a dedicated weekly "Article of the Week" section), CommonLit, NewsELA, and Kelly Gallagher's own website where he shares archived articles and teacher guides. Many experienced teachers also share their curated collections on social media platforms like Twitter and Pinterest.

Overcoming Common Challenges

Even with a well-planned routine, teachers encounter obstacles. Here are some frequent issues and solutions:

- Student apathy toward nonfiction: Hook them with a controversial or surprising topic first. Use a short video clip as a "hook" on Monday. Let students vote on the next article from a short list.
- Lack of time in the schedule: Integrate the routine into existing periods. Use the Article of the Week as a warm-up for four days, or replace a traditional worksheet or textbook reading. Gallagher suggests it should take no more than 20 minutes per day.

Related Articles

- **Are James Blunt And Emily Blunt Related**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/are-james-blunt-and-emily-blunt-related.pdf
- **Was Remember Me Based On A True Story**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/was-remember-me-based-on-a-true-story.pdf
- **Ess Employee Self Service Costco**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/ess-employee-self-service-costco.pdf
- **The Case For Christianity By Cs Lewis**
  URL: https://signage.openstack.org/the-case-for-christianity-by-cs-lewis.pdf

TOPIC INDEX

#kelly • #gallagher • #article • #week

DIGITAL EDITION

kelly-gallagher-article-of-the-week

DIGITAL EDITION

kelly-gallagher-article-of-the-week

DIGITAL EDITION

kelly-gallagher-article-of-the-week

DIGITAL EDITION

kelly-gallagher-article-of-the-week