



# LEARNING IS A BLAST

STUDYSYNC® PRESENTS

## SYNC BLASTS™

An inquiry-based solution for 6–12 *Networks*™ social studies

*SyncBlasts* provides reading and writing assignments called Blasts that present social studies and current event topics relevant to students' lives and their world. Providing a variety of rich multimedia—including a news show, podcasts, and skills videos—*SyncBlasts* are an engaging and smart way to build critical thinking, writing, and research skills. New Blasts are published each school day at three Lexile®-levels.

Blasts challenge students to:

- ✦ Build vital research, writing, and critical-thinking skills while providing an easy entry point for peer review.
- ✦ Develop informed opinions on high-interest topics of cultural significance.
- ✦ Express their opinions succinctly, in a familiar, social media-like format.
- ✦ Participate in thoughtful discussions with an authentic audience of peers.

Supporting student inquiry and discussion, *SyncBlasts* includes multimedia components such as preview videos that highlight background information relevant to the Blast topic, skills videos with peer modeling, and additional video content that helps students build a complete understanding of the topic and construct informed responses to their assignments.

Go to [mcgrawhillnetworks.com](http://mcgrawhillnetworks.com) for more info or to contact a sales rep.

## How it Works

Teachers visit content channels to select and assign Blasts—short reading and writing assignments that inspire students to think critically about high-interest topics. Students explore a robust platform of multimedia content to learn about the Blast topic and then complete assignments within our engaging social media-like platform.



## Multimedia Components



### Preview videos

Designed like movie trailers, preview videos set the stage and provide background information for what is to come. Use these videos as an introduction to the subject and revisit for a big-picture view.



### SyncSkills videos

SyncSkills videos model the rigor and drama of a lively classroom discussion in a condensed and casual format. Students learn by watching peers model specific critical-thinking, writing, and analytical skills.



### Explainer videos

Short, fact-based videos focus on explaining an idea in a simple and compelling manner. Clear, concise language is paired with visuals, quickly teaching a concept prior to a deeper dive or discussion.



### “The Point” news show

These videos get to the point with news and global issues. Students watch and become engaged with newscasts produced with peer-aged students.



### Podcasts

Bring students' thoughts and opinions—plus insights from teachers, experts, and innovators in education—right into the classroom! Podcasts are produced using student voices from around the country.