

**Melissa Ivy**  
**Bryan Elementary School, Hillsborough County**  
**2025 Runner-Up**

Melissa is a Media Specialist at Bryan Elementary School in Hillsborough County.

Melissa was chosen as a 2025 Runner-Up for integrating the Tampa Bay Times and NIE resources into her media center instruction.

Through collaborative lessons with classroom teachers, Melissa introduces students to newspaper articles that support science, social studies, and English/Language Arts standards. For example, during a 5th-grade government unit, she guided students in analyzing editorials and news stories to better understand civic responsibility and the structure of government.

In reading groups, she uses Tampa Bay Times articles to model nonfiction text structures, identify the central idea, and evaluate sources for author's perspective, claims, bias, and credibility.

Melissa also uses NIE resources to teach digital literacy and responsible media consumption. Her lessons include how to navigate online news platforms, distinguish fact from opinion, and understand journalistic integrity.

By bringing the world into the classroom through NIE, Melissa cultivates a dynamic and relevant learning environment.

## **Lesson Plan 2: "Current Events and Citizenship" – Making Real-World Connections**

**Grade Level:** 5th

**Duration:** 1 session (60 minutes)

**Standards:**

- SS.5.C.2.2 – Identify ways good citizens go beyond basic civic and political responsibilities.
- ELA.5.R.3.3 – Compare and contrast accounts of the same topic.
- ELA.K12.EE.5.1 – Use the reading process to develop and deepen understanding.

**Objective:**

Students will analyze a current events article and connect it to concepts of responsible citizenship.

**Materials:**

- Selected NIE article related to civic duty, volunteering, or community service
- "Citizenship Connection" graphic organizer
- Markers and chart paper

**Activities:**

1. **Engage (5 min):** Ask students, "What makes someone a good citizen?" Write responses on chart paper.
2. **Read Aloud & Think Aloud:** Melissa reads an article about a local community project. She models how to identify civic actions in the article.
3. **Student Analysis:** Students read a second article in small groups, using the graphic organizer to identify:
  - The main idea
  - Civic actions described
  - Connections to their own lives
4. **Reflection:** Groups present their findings and discuss how they can be active citizens.
5. **Extension Option:** Students create a public service announcement or digital poster encouraging civic involvement.

## Citizenship Connection – Graphic Organizer

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** After reading your assigned article, use this graphic organizer to analyze the article and connect it to responsible citizenship.

Central Idea	What is the article mostly about? Summarize the central focus in your own words.
Civic Action(s)	What actions did individuals or groups take that show good citizenship?
Connection to My Life	How does this relate to something you've done or something you could do to help your community?
Memorable Quote or Statement	Write down a quote from the article that stood out to you. Why do you think it's powerful or important?
 Extension Activity (Optional): Create a public service announcement or digital poster encouraging good citizenship inspired by your article.	