

**AIMS**

Association of Independent  
Maryland & DC Schools



# DIGESTIBLES FOR DISTANCE LEARNING

Small Ideas for a Big Job!

## Digestible #17

### More Ways to Level Up....

So, a lot of us have a decent handle on how to meet synchronously and what kinds of assignments work best asynchronously. Many of us are **ready to consider how to make our distance learning classroom richer, more engaging and populated by the highest possible quality content**. Here are two tools below to help you level up in your distance learning game. They came from YOU, our community members. Got a suggestion? Email me back.

Alecia at AIMS



### Age-Appropriate News Content for All

Many of you report finding it challenging to assign **current-events related content without exposing our students of all ages to misinformation or even ridiculous amounts of advertising**. Newslea is a great solution to this problem. They start with the world's best sources and carefully select only the content that is most representative, most engaging, and best for *Culturally Responsive Teaching*. All content is provided at 5 reading levels--HELLO high school level content--and you as the teacher can even annotate the content. Fresh content is added daily and they're offering this **free for the remainder of the year**. A favorite recent article: "Managing the Stress of Distance Learning for Kids."

[Learn More](#)

No More Boring Slides: Pear Deck Activate!

The screenshot displays the PearDeck interface for a Spanish lesson. At the top, there's a 'Show grid' button and a 'STUDENT RESPONSES' header. Below the header, a grid of student responses is visible, each with a blue progress bar. The responses are in Spanish, discussing a dog's location and actions. A 'What student sees' window on the left shows a presentation slide with a dog on a beach. A yellow box labeled 'What teacher sees' is overlaid on the bottom right of the grid.

Slide presentations over a distance learning screen are often where learning goes to die of boredom. Why present slides live if the viewer can just read those on his or her own? That's where Pear Deck comes in. **You can make those presentations active and engaging.** [How?](#) It comes down to actively being able to respond to the teacher through **on-screen assessments and comments**. It sounds complicated maybe? It's not! AIMS Educator [Stacey Roshan](#) has a great webinar for [how you can use this in your distance learning classroom](#) right away. It integrates seamlessly with both Google Slides, Zoom, and Powerpoint and, again, is free to everyone.

[Learn More](#)