



#PodcastsInTheClassroom

Episode Question Ideas: Episode

The Race to Define the Green New Deal with Grist CEO Brady Walkinshaw

<https://www.americaadapts.org/episodes/the-race-to-define-the-green-new-deal-with-grist-ceo-brady-walkinshaw>

Full Episode Questions

- Walkinshaw observes that people tend to tune into news outlets that mirror their own perspectives. To what extent is this true for you? What could be gained by consuming media produced by groups with agendas different from yours?
- Walkinshaw also notes that the staff at Grist works hard to reach people who might not normally consume the media that Grist produces. If you're active in producing media of any sort related to climate change (social media posts, blog posts, journalistic writing, scientific reports, etc.), what could you do to reach a wider audience? What people/groups/resources in your community could help you learn how to do this more effectively?
- Walkinshaw and Parsons discuss the recent shift in media to reduce the contrarian voice that presents climate change as a balanced issue and that considers anti-climate rhetoric equally. Had you noticed the recent shift in the media? Has the shift in media been impactful for you and/or those around you? In your experience, has this shift in media been reflected in general conversation with the public?
- Walkinshaw and Parsons discuss the pros and cons of the "10 years to decarbonize" narrative. What are the points they make, and where do you land on this issue?
- What is the Green New Deal? How does it talk back to the traditional "doom and gloom" of climate change storytelling?
- Walkinshaw describes some of the skepticism surrounding the Green New Deal. What are some of the different perspectives being raised?
- Walkingshaw describes how Grist tries to create stories that make a low carbon economy seem so desirable that "you want it right now." How often do you see this strategy in the climate change media you consume? Do you think this is more effective than focusing on the detrimental consequences of not addressing climate change? Would you consider using this strategy in your own communications about climate change? If you already have used this strategy, what have been the results?



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Related Open Education Materials

Need more teaching materials related to the issues raised in this episode? You may find the following open educational resources from MIT OpenCourseWare helpful.

[The New Deal](#) or <https://tinyurl.com/y3e7ubyn>

Thomas Kochan provides a summary of the original New Deal in this pdf from his course, 15.662x Shaping the Future of Work. This would make great background reading for understanding the Green New Deal.

[21W.053 Science Writing and New Media: Communicating Science to the Public](#) or: <https://tinyurl.com/y2sx9bsb>

Jared David Berezin shares teaching materials from this introductory course about writing about science for the general public. Educators have access to assignments, which focus on different popular forms, such as news articles, interviews, essays, and short features. Berezin also shares his in-class activities.

[Data Storytelling Studio: Climate Change](#) or: <https://tinyurl.com/y4g6aubc>

Rahul Bhargava shares teaching materials from a course focused on visualization methods to conceive and represent systems and data, with a particular focus on climate change data. Educators have access to assignments, lecture notes, and instructor insights.



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