

Assigned Platform Topics (March 2026):

Outline Due Date: Sunday, March 15, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

Video Recording Due Date: Sunday, March 22, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

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Assigned Platform Topics (March 2026): Controlled Burns, Crowded, Expiration Dates, Fine Print, Last Piece, Lost Treasures, Middle East, Muddy, Nerves, & Residue.

Controlled Burns: A controlled burn is a fire that trained fire workers start on purpose, but only after they study the land, the wind, and the weather very carefully. They clear a safe area around the fire and watch it closely so it stays inside the planned space and removes dry grass and dead plants on the ground. This is important because too many dry plants can act like fuel and lead to very large wildfires that destroy homes, forests, and animal habitats. Students could learn how fire teams decide when it is safe to burn, how controlled burns can help certain trees and plants grow back stronger, and why some people worry about smoke or safety.

Crowded: Crowded means that a place has more people or more things in it than the space was designed to handle in a comfortable way. When a space is crowded, it can feel loud, tight, stressful, and harder to move or think clearly. This is important because overcrowding can affect learning in schools, safety in public areas, and health in places like hospitals or prisons. Students could explore how crowded cities deal with housing problems, what happens when classrooms have too many students, and how leaders plan cities to reduce overcrowding.

Expiration Dates: An expiration date is a printed date on food or medicine that tells people how long the product is expected to keep its best quality or stay safe to use. Different labels mean different things, but many people do not understand the difference and may throw away food that is still safe. This is important because food waste increases costs for families and creates more trash that harms the environment. Students could explore the difference between “best before” and “use by” labels, how companies test food to choose a date, and how reducing food waste can help communities.

Fine Print: Fine print is very small writing that appears in contracts, tickets, or online agreements and contains detailed rules that people must follow. These rules often explain fees, limits, or conditions that are not obvious at first glance. This is important because when people agree without reading carefully, they may give up certain rights or agree to pay extra money. Students could examine examples from phone contracts, video game terms, or airline tickets and discuss whether companies should make rules easier to read.

The Last Piece: The last piece is the final part that is needed to finish a task, complete a project, or solve a problem. Even though it may look small, it can determine whether the entire effort succeeds or fails. This is important because many goals depend on careful planning and finishing every step fully. Students could explore teamwork in group projects, competition when only one prize remains, or how one final decision can change the result of an important plan.

Lost Treasures: Lost treasures are valuable objects, money, or important historical items that have been hidden, buried, or missing for a long time. Some treasures are found in shipwrecks under the sea, while others are discovered in old cities or deep underground. This is important because these discoveries can teach us about history, culture, and past civilizations, and they sometimes lead to legal arguments about ownership. Students could research famous shipwreck discoveries, stories of hidden gold, or how archaeologists carefully protect historical objects when they are found.

The Middle East: The Middle East is a region that includes several countries in Western Asia and nearby areas, such as Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and others. This region has been important for thousands of years because of religion, trade routes, and energy resources like oil and natural gas. This is important because conflicts, peace talks, and military actions in this region can affect global energy prices, international safety, and relationships between major countries. Students could explore recent tensions involving Iran, the role of oil in the world economy, or efforts by different nations to create peace agreements.

Muddy: Muddy means covered in wet soil that sticks to shoes, clothes, roads, or fields and makes movement more difficult. The word can also describe a situation that is not clear, where facts are mixed together and people do not fully understand what is happening. This is important because unclear information or confusing rules can lead to poor decisions and disagreements. Students could explore muddy floodwaters after heavy rain, unclear public policies that confuse citizens, or how leaders can present information in a clearer way.

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Nerves: Nerves are thin strands inside the body that send messages between the brain and different body parts so we can move, feel pain, or sense temperature. The word also describes the feeling of tension or anxiety before doing something important, such as speaking in front of others. This is important because understanding how the body reacts to stress can help people stay calm and perform better. Students could explore how the nervous system works, why the heart beats faster during stress, or techniques people use to control nervous feelings before a performance.

Residue: Residue is a small amount of material that remains after most of something has been cleaned, burned, used, or removed. This can include chemical residue left on fruits and vegetables, smoke residue left on walls after a fire, or pollution that remains in water after an industrial accident. This is important because even small leftover amounts can affect health, safety, or the environment over time. Students could research pesticide residue on crops, pollution that stays in rivers after a spill, or long-term effects that continue in communities after a disaster or conflict.