

ISSUES 21

Grades 7–12

Issues 21 integrates social justice with problem-based inquiry to engage and inspire students

Issues 21 offers teachers the resources they need to meet content and literacy needs while making learning provocative and meaningful. Each book features an inquiry question that sparks a desire for an in-depth exploration of the issue. Students will have opportunities to discover innovative ways of understanding, confronting, and addressing issues they really care about. They will also develop 21st-century competencies in critical thinking, creativity, communication, collaboration, character, and ethical citizenship.

There are four categories—Health, Environment, Human Rights, and Culture & Media—allowing the resource to be used in multiple curriculum areas. All of the 24 titles offer engaging, thought-provoking texts and visuals such as mind maps, graphics, and photographs. Each book is divided into three sections:

- **Step 1—The Issue** presents some of the significant issues surrounding the topic to build students' understanding of the complexity and urgency of the issue.
- **Step 2—Game-Changers** showcases the people, events, and ideas that have changed the issue in some way—for good or bad.
- **Step 3—Take Action** supports students with suggestions for personal, local, and global action.



"When you give kids a puzzle or a problem, it has natural holding power. They naturally want to try to address that puzzle or that problem. Anything we teach has to be in service of the self, of peers, of the classroom, of the community, of the world and the environment. And one thing I love about Issues 21 is how it does that."

- Dr. Jeffrey D. Wilhelm, *Issues 21* Series Editor



Watch a video overview of Issues 21:
<http://schol.ca/x/issues21video>



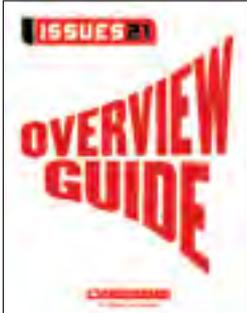
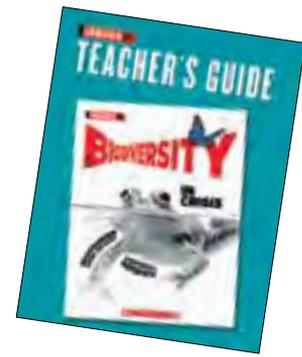
Overfishing interior

Each student book:

- Is an **interdisciplinary resource** raising issues that build on literacy, media literacy, science, social studies, and math.
- Develops **21st-century skills**, as well as crucial reading, writing, and oral communication skills necessary to navigate today's rapidly changing media-driven environment.
- Promotes an **inquiry approach** to engage and deepen student understanding.
- Integrates **social justice** thinking where students will evaluate existing power structures, events, and practices from multiple perspectives; they will make decisions and take action to address issues personally, locally, and globally.
- Creates opportunities for students to discover **innovative ways of understanding, confronting, and addressing issues** they care about.

Teacher's Guides

The teaching support focuses on questions that address the intersection of curriculum, identity and self, and social justice to help students delve deeper into an issue. Each teaching guide includes access to a website that provides additional content to extend and deepen inquiry and an anchor video to introduce the topic and provide background knowledge.



Download a PDF of the *Issues 21* Overview Guide with 16 pages of detailed information about the resource: <http://schol.ca/x/i21overview>

Website

Each Teacher's Guide comes with access to the *Issues 21* website: www.scholastic.ca/education/issues21

The website for each title features:

- Anchor videos
- Additional resources
- A full list of sources for *Issues 21* books



Anchor Videos

Each title has an anchor video available online. These videos introduce the topic to students and build background knowledge so students have something to build on as they explore the issues.



16-pack storage box

6-packs include:

- 6 copies of one title
- Teacher's Guide
- Access to website and anchor videos

16-packs include:

- 16 copies of one title
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- Storage box
- Access to website and anchor videos



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Health



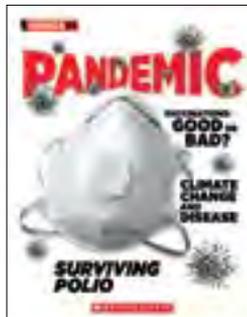
Food

Erika Boas, Fiona Luray Wilhelm, and Jeffrey David Wilhelm

Do you know what you're eating and what it's doing to you?

Are food ads making us buy what we don't need? Is junk food too addictive? How are the decisions we make about food influenced?

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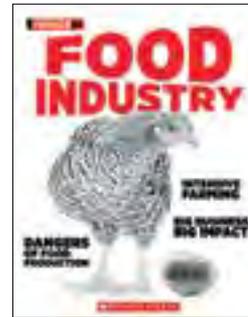
Pandemic

Jacqueline Nemni

How can we avoid a pandemic?

It seems that every year we hear about a new health threat that could cause a pandemic. It is terrifying to watch as these threats spread across the world. How do pandemics happen and what can we do to limit their impact?

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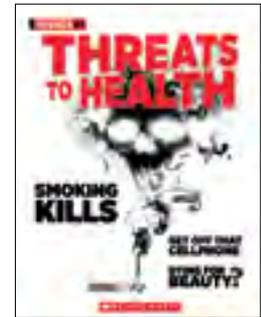
Food Industry

Erika Boas, Fiona Luray Wilhelm, and Jeffrey David Wilhelm

What is responsible food production?

Food no longer goes directly from field to plate. The food industry includes growing, processing, transportation, and sale of food. What are the pros and cons of this industry?

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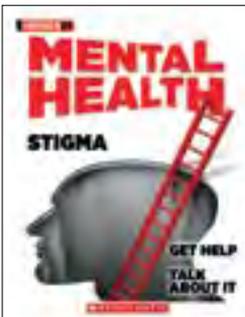
Threats to Health

Dona Foucault

How does our lifestyle threaten our health?

As society changes, so do health threats, diets, and lifestyles. Some germs are becoming resistant to medications. What are the modern health threats, and what can we do to reduce them?

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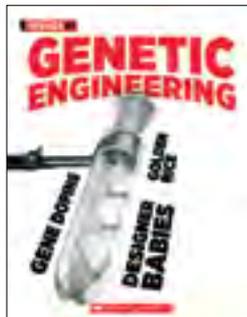
Mental Health

Jacqueline Nemni

What are the costs of ignoring mental illness?

About 20 percent of Canadian youths face mental health issues, yet many are ashamed to admit that they are struggling with it. How do we reduce the stigma of mental illness, and what can we do to maintain our own mental health and help those around us?

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Genetic Engineering

Douglas Fraser

How do we balance scientific advances with ethical decisions?

Genetic engineering sparks much debate. From crops that resist insects to bananas that produce vaccines, how do we decide whether this technology helps or hinders society?

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Environment



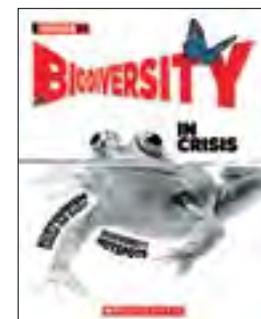
Energy

Amy Farrell-Morneau

How can we power our world without destroying it?

It's easy to say that renewable sources of energy are "good" and non-renewable sources of energy are "bad," but this isn't necessarily true. How can we evaluate the real costs of energy?

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Biodiversity

Sandy Szeto

Why should we be concerned about the loss of biodiversity?

The loss of biodiversity is a hot topic, but it isn't enough to say that we should preserve it. We need to understand how we benefit from biodiversity, what is causing the unprecedented loss of species, and what we can do to prevent that loss.

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Environment



Overfishing

Jeffrey David Wilhelm

How important is sustainable fishing?

Around the world, people depend on fishing to survive. However, fish and other marine animals are harvested at an unsustainable level. This book examines underlying causes of overfishing and looks at ways to address them.

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Climate Change

Douglas Fraser

How can we address the causes and effects of climate change?

Climate change is having a disastrous impact on the environment and us. Learn how human activities are causing climate change and what we can do to reduce the impact.

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Ocean Pollution

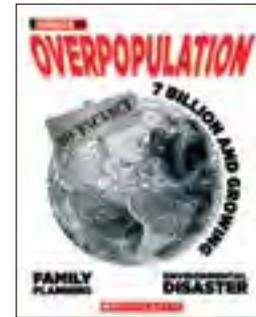
Erika Boas

Why should we care about the destruction of our oceans?

We depend on the oceans for food, employment, transportation, and recreation. However, we pollute it with plastic, oil, sewage, and chemicals. It is even becoming too noisy for whales to communicate. Learn why the oceans need our care.

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Overpopulation

Brian Arleth

How far can we push our planet?

How many people can the world support? What are the causes and effects of population growth in a global context, and what can be done to reduce it?

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Human Rights



Poverty

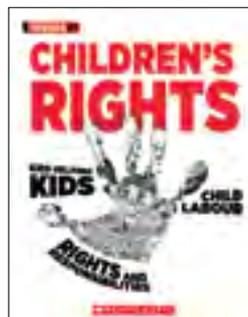
Craig Harding and Glyn Hughes

Why does poverty exist and whose problem is it?

Poverty has persisted throughout history and continues to be one of the biggest problems facing humanity today. What causes poverty and how we can work together to make a difference?

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Children's Rights

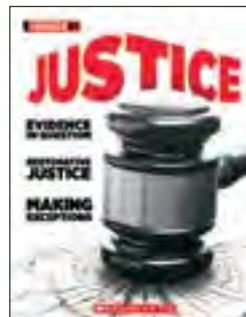
Robyn Turgeon and Michael F. Stewart

Why are children still being exploited in the 21st century?

Children continue to be exploited all over the world. Child labour, child soldiers, and child abuse are all still happening. Why does this exploitation continue and what can we do to finally put an end to it?

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Justice

Charles Boocock

How fair is our justice system?

The justice system exists to help us all live together peacefully. This book looks at the struggle to achieve fair and equal justice for all.

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Discrimination

Tom Henderson

What prevents us from accepting everyone as they are?

Many think Canada is free from discrimination, but one-third of Canadians feel it is a problem. Look at how far we've come, and how much further we need to go in the fight against discrimination.

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Inquiry

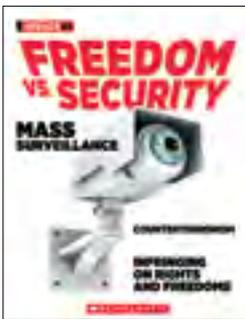
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Human Rights

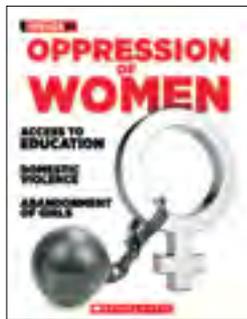


Freedom vs. Security
Craig Harding and Glyn Hughes

How can we balance freedom and security?

Ensuring our collective safety and security is an important government responsibility, but the government also has a duty to ensure citizens' rights and freedoms. How do we balance individual freedoms and collective security?

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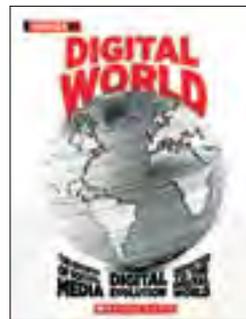
Oppression of Women
Ruby Lee

How can we bring an end to the oppression of women?

The United Nations says 70 percent of women worldwide suffer from violence in their lifetime. What causes the oppression of women, and what are the consequences to individuals, families, and society as a whole?

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Culture & Media

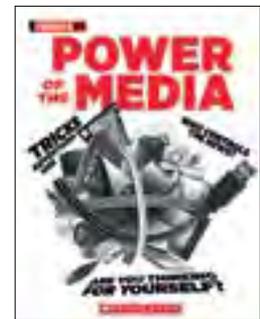


Digital World
Glen Downey

How has the digital era helped or hurt our society?

Whether we like it or not, we live in a digital world. Never before have we been so connected, but with these digital benefits come many challenges. How do we evaluate the effect of digital technologies on the way we think and interact?

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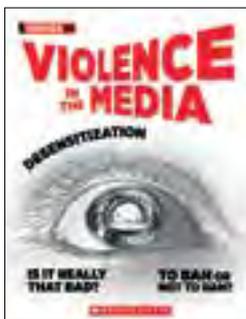


Power of the Media
Brooke Moore and Tara Smith

How does media affect our lives?

Who controls media and how? Do we really understand how media shapes our thinking, our actions, and our lives?

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Violence in the Media
Glen Downey

What are the consequences of media violence?

Violence as part of entertainment isn't new, but many are worried about its effects on us. Is it simply entertainment, or do we need to limit our exposure to violence in the media?

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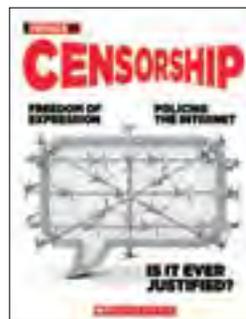


Consumer Culture
Craig Harding and Glyn Hughes

What are we buying, and why do we think we need it?

What do we really need to be happy? Has the line between want and need become blurred? How do we consume, what effect does our consumption have on us, and what can we do about it?

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Censorship
Glen Downey

Why do we have censorship?

Most people do not like to be told what they can and cannot read, see, or say. But despite our resistance to censorship, it continues to happen all over the world. Why do we have censorship and is it ever justified?

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Corruption
Michael F. Stewart

How does corruption affect society?

Corruption thrives in secrecy—because of this, it is hard to identify and stop it. How does corruption happen in today's world, and who are the people trying to bring it to light?

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Grades 4–6

Inspire your students to take action with these real-world inquiries!



Take Action is a series of 12 engaging titles that focuses on:

- Ethical Citizenship
- Social Justice
- Sustainability
- Our Canadian Society

Each title includes a 32-page magazine-style book for students, anchor videos, and a Teacher’s Guide. They are designed for whole-class study with students working in small groups.

Key features:

- Built on inquiry and project-based learning
- Social justice action initiative for each topic
- Cross-curricular connections to literacy, social studies, science, arts, health, math, and citizenship
- Teaching support with strategies for deep comprehension, critical thinking, and inquiry-based learning
- A website for each title with anchor videos and additional supports

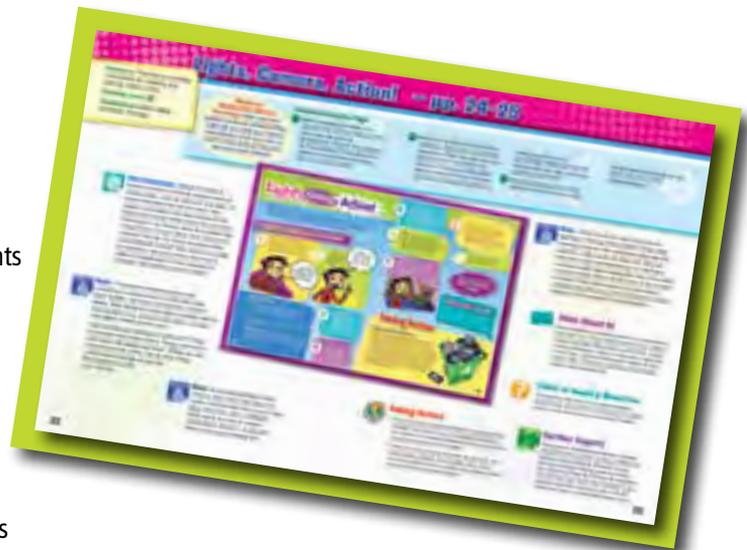
Teaching support for each selection in the book has the same elements, so you can help students understand and go deeper into the topic.

- **Minds on Reflection (Before Reading):** These questions allow students to reflect on their own background knowledge.
- **Interdisciplinary Connections:** Each selection has interdisciplinary suggestions and questions to extend conceptual learning and understanding.
- **Links to Inquiry Question:** These prompts help students reflect on the inquiry question and revise their thinking.
- **Taking Action:** This section provides information about individuals, groups, or organizations taking action and poses questions about the different issues.
- **Think About It!:** This section contains additional facts or questions for the reader to explore.
- **Further Inquiry:** This section examines concepts/themes within the selections and suggests possible topics for further inquiry.



“Take Action ... comes from the passion to help students become more engaged and able readers and writers, and to involve them not only with some of the challenges facing all of us, our cultures, and environments, but also with positive ways forward in addressing these challenges.”

Dr. Jeffrey D. Wilhelm
Series Editor



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Inquiry

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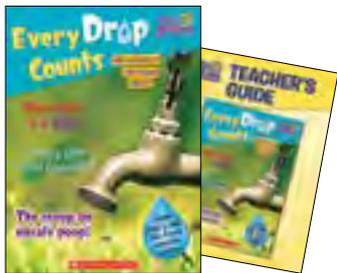


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