

OPBS NEWS

STUDENT
REPORTING
LABS

ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT ACADEMIC YEAR SEP 2023 - AUG 2024



THE BIG PICTURE

PBS News Student Reporting Labs (SRL)

is a hands-on <u>journalism</u> training program that connects young people with <u>real-world</u> experiences and educators with resources and community.

-MISSION-

To be the premiere youth journalism training program in the United States by providing tools and meaningful learning opportunities for young people and the educators who support them.





-VISION-

A world in which young people's voices are heard and valued, free expression meets journalistic integrity, and SRL leads a diverse and creative community of practice in media and journalism education.

-CORE VALUES-

- Listening
- Journalistic Integrity
- Equity
- Collaboration
- Representation
- Curiosity
- Intentionality
- Respect



—— A NOTE FROM —— THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to Student Reporting Labs (SRL)'s second annual community report sharing highlights of students' achievements, training events and content initiatives. SRL tackled critical topics important to teens this year: elections, gun violence, education legislation, Al, how online communities and digital discourse impact young people, school and life after graduation, community and culture.

Hope you noticed our new name! <u>PBS News</u> is now a full-service news brand with a suite of products and services that include the nightly News (space) Hour program. For us, the new brand reinforces our mission to support young people and new audiences with PBS values of public-service journalism. **PBS News Student Reporting Labs** continues to reflect our central goal to experiment and explore ways to provide transformational learning opportunities for young people and support the educators who make it all happen. The more we amplify youth voices and student journalism, the more it encourages others to engage, sign up and participate. The amazing SRL team embodies these goals every day in the content and experiences we produce, and most importantly, the community we build. Take a look at our year in review, and read on.

Leah Clapman



By The Numbers

-AUDIENCE REACH-

-SRL stories on PBS News-

- 2.1 million
 nightly viewers
- **4.24 million**YouTube subscribers

-Student Reporting Labschannels

572,021 YouTube views

1,624,225
social channels reach



In the 2023-24 school year, SRL provided support to an estimated 70,000 students through their teachers and more directly, through publication and paid production:

- **179** stories published
- 14 student-produced SRL stories on PBS News broadcast
- **71** SRL paid production gigs filled by 55 students

133 students worked in-depth with SRL staff, including:

- **35** Academy Fellows
- **34** On Our Minds Season 4 producers
- **26** On Our Minds Election 2024 producers
- ☐ **26** Student Advisory Team members
- □ **14** Run, Hide, Fight producers
- 34 students who published social videos on SRL platforms



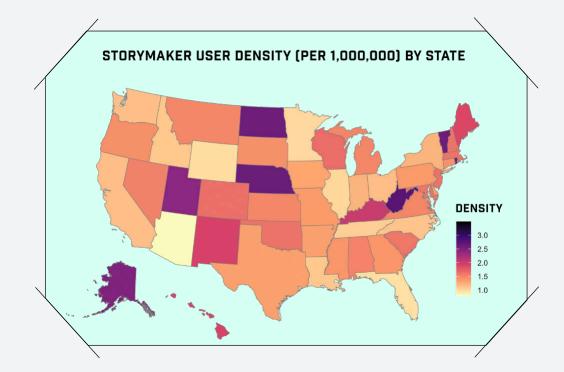
Students demonstrate remarkable growth; through research, interviewing community members, and working diligently on the script and editing. The turning point comes when they present their finished piece to the class. They now have newfound confidence and enthusiasm about the stories they have produced.

- Sequoyah Wharton, Brentwood High School



StoryMaker is SRL's resource platform

Our training curriculum, yearly prompts, and learning community includes **8,000+ registered educators** on StoryMaker in all **50 states and 119 countries.**



Top 3 states by Count:

- □ **California** (630 users)
- **Texas:** (553 users)
- New York (335 users)

Top 3 states by Density (per 1 mil residents)

- (per ± mirresidents)
- □ **District of Columbia** (48 users)
- West Virginia (38 users)
- Nebraska (36 users)

Top 3 countries beyond the US

- **Canada** (135 users)
- **Philippines** (122 users)
- □ India (95 users)

Main Content Projects •



On Our Minds Season 4

SRL's Edward R. Murrow award-winning teen life & mental health podcast

34 students contributed to 11 episodes including interviews with U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy, Lawrence the Band, climate activist Sophia Kianni, and poet Yung Pueblo. This season was a collaboration with KUOW's former youth program, RadioActive.

On Our Minds: Election 2024

A special election season

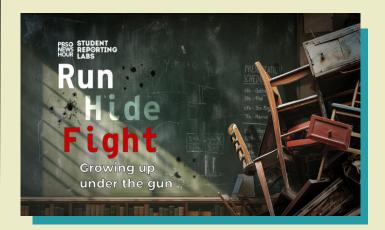
This seven-episode season was co-created with 26 students from 15 states and Puerto Rico, including teens from SRL's 2023-24 Student Advisory Team who pitched the concept to SRL. This season explores topics like who can vote, how to deal with misinformation, plus conversations with politics reporters and some of the the youngest candidates running for office. Select pieces this season are collaborations with *Teen Vogue's* 2024 Election Correspondents.



Run Hide Fight: Growing up under the gun

A collaborative documentary about how gun violence affects young Americans

This documentary is co-produced with more than a dozen student journalists from Philadelphia (PA), Oakland (CA), East Lansing (MI), Nashville (TN), and Washington D.C. Each segment produced by student reporters explores the question: what is it like to be part of a generation growing up with guns as the leading cause of death for young Americans?





Ethan Rodriguez interviews trauma surgeon Dr. Jessica Beard during the production of Run, Hide, Fight: Growing up under the gun in Philadelphia, PA.



Youth don't feel heard in political media; they will feel heard if the content is created by other youth... No major project gives youth a voice in journalism regarding electoral politics. We seek to change that.



 Nico Fischer and Poojasai Kona, hosts of On Our Minds: Election 2024

Main Content Projects





Teacher Reporting Labs

a podcast developed by teachers, for teachers

This new pilot podcast went live in April 2024. Hosted by two longtime SRL teachers, each episode brings on additional educators from different parts of the country for conversations about their experiences in the classroom, from the challenges to the moments that make it all worth it.

Episodes explored how teachers engage and support students outside the curriculum, strategies for creating inclusive classroom environments, and how educators can take care of their mental health and well being.

Hosts Mike Conrad and guest host Sequoyah Wharton interview Franki Foster during a live recording session of Teacher Reporting Labs during the 2024 SRL Teacher Workshop.



Moments Of Truth

SRL's Gold Telly Award-Winning digital series

This series explores how young people navigate social media, misinformation, and disinformation online, and is published in collaboration with PBS News.





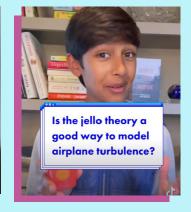
MediaWise Toolkit

a collection of media literacy curricula

This collaboration with the Teen Fact-Checking
Network from Poynter Institute's MediaWise
includes 30+ lessons; this year we launched
How2Internet to teach young people skills that
will guide them on their journey to becoming good
digital citizens.







Members of the MediaWise Teen Fact-Checking Network investigate dubious claims and information in recent news stories.

Hands On Training Experiences



SRL Summer Academy 2024

SRL's flagship student training event

24 high school journalists from across the country attended the eight-day SRL Summer Academy in Washington, DC. Fellows reported and edited video reports in small groups, received in-depth coaching and skills training in video journalism, including sessions with News Hour hosts Amna Nawaz and Geoff Bennett, and wrapped the week with a public screening of their seven final video reports. Three stories were later broadcast nationally on PBS News Hour. This year's academy in Arlington, VA, was a collaboration with PBS News and WETA.

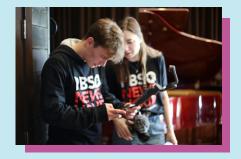














Teacher Workshop 2024

SRL's flagship yearly educator training event.

30 educators from across the country gathered for the annual Teacher Workshop.
The three-day, hands-on skills training was held in July at WETA headquarters in Arlington, VA, and included a live taping of a Teacher Reporting Labs podcast episode.









SRL Winter Academy 2023

SRL's first school-year student training event

After 10 years of the SRL Summer Academy, SRL added a new in-person training opportunity. Thirteen student journalists gathered in Austin in December 2023 in collaboration with Austin PBS. During the five-day event, students learned production and reporting skills, then worked in teams to produce news reports on Austin-based musicians and performance artists.

I felt heard and seen and important in many different ways unimaginable. Thank you for listening to our voices, and giving us such good criticism and guidance. Thank you for creating such a beautiful program for students like me. I truly hope you know how greatly you've changed my life, my confidence, my outlook on life.
— 2024 SRL Winter Academy Fellow

Elevating Student Voices



SRL's Student Advisory Team

a group of teens who guide SRL's editorial coverage

The 2023-24 Student Advisory Team included <u>26</u> students working closely with SRL staff to guide SRL's editorial strategy, including co-developing prompts for the 2024-25 school year. Students from the team pitched and designed <u>On Our Minds: Election 2024.</u>

Partner Training Events

workshops that broaden the SRL community.

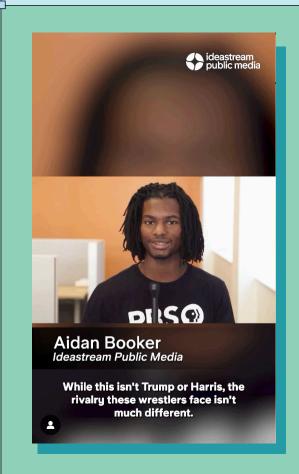
SRL led several one-day training events this year, including a kickoff event for Grand Valley University's SRL program, a podcasting workshop with the Kauffman Foundation for students in St. Louis, a mobile journalism workshop for SEPA teachers and scientists in Maine, and an educator production skills workshop with Georgia Public Broadcasting's Youth Voices Collective. SRL also developed training sessions for journalists in the Report for America and America Amplified networks seeking to learn how to better include young people in their stories and enhance their local coverage.





The Gwen Ifill Legacy Fellowship

SRL's summer paid local news mentorship opportunity for high school students of color, honors the memory of pioneering journalist Gwen Ifill. Three fellows worked with Ideastream in Cleveland, Ohio; DPTV in Detroit, Michigan; and WETA in Arlington, Virginia.







On Stage

Speaking opportunities at 10 Events & Conferences



This year, SRL connected 30+ student reporters with speaking and production opportunities at several large-scale events and conferences. Students keynoted the National Association for Media Literacy Education's conference, On Our Minds season four co-hosts discussed how education reporters can more collaboratively report on youth mental health issues at the Education Writers Association conference, students led a mainstage conversation on student journalism at NETA 2023, provided their insights on including young people in election coverage with reporters of America Amplified, and led a session with student journalists JEA in Boston.

Students from schools in South Carolina interviewed attendees of INPUT, an international gathering of public media producers from 60+ countries, and filmed interviews with Hamilton's Chris Jackson and poet Yung Pueblo at SXSW EDU. SRL also participated in the Irust.News.Democracy. panel on developing the journalism workforce pipeline at LBJ Presidential Library. These experiences make space for adult attendees to hear directly from young people — perspectives often missing in panel conversations about media, education, and civics.

Strength in Partnerships

We Don't Do It Alone!

SRL's success is rooted in collaboration with nonprofit news and public media, education, and media literacy organizations — this year we worked with organizations to develop events, explore local distribution opportunities, and provide professional development. We've worked with organizations and groups like Report for America, Documenters, the Listening Post Collective, America Amplified, NAMLE, KQED, etc. and we're actively seeking new collaborators. This year SRL defined what we're looking for in collaborations and developed our first Journalism Industry Advisory Board, 20+ journalists from news organizations offering advice and feedback from the journalism community about how we can best build resources and opportunities for young journalists as we grow. Please reach out to our team if your organization has aligned goals.

JOIN OUR NETWORK

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter

Sustain our work with a donation

Reach out with your collaboration or co-publication idea

Learn about upcoming topics/prompts on StoryMaker



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