When thinking about the world around us (past and present) it is important to make connections to the events we learn or hear about. Why, might you ask? Because making connections helps us to remember and understand an event more clearly. If you can connect a current event with a personal experience or with something you have learned in the past you are much more likely to identify with it or remember it.

Thoughtful, insightful, and clear connections are not as hard as you may think. Below are some ideas to get you thinking about how to begin making connections to the world around you.

When you hear or read about an event try to make at least one of the following connections from the areas below:

**Text to Self**
- A connection between the text and something in your own life experience
  - Places you have visited
  - Family vacations
  - Conversations with your parents or family members
  - Sports teams, clubs, organizations that you have been a part of
  - Something that happened to you or someone you know

**Text to Text**
- A connection between the text and another story, article or text that you have read before
  - An article in Social Studies or another class
  - Social Studies or other textbook
  - the newspaper
  - the internet
  - an encyclopedia
  - a book
  - a short story
  - a play

**Text to World**
- A connection between the text and something that is occurring or has occurred in the world
  - Story you watched on the news
  - Something you learned in school this year or previous years
  - An event from history that you learned about from watching a documentary
  - Speaking to someone who lived through an event (primary source)