



Within a week of Quebec closing all schools, the *Je Me Souviens* (JMS) education program, which provides free teaching materials to supplement the Quebec history curriculum, began producing new materials to better help teachers and students in this new Covid 19 reality. Though the JMS materials were already ‘Covid-ready’ in that all of our resources are available for free online, JMS decided to create new materials to help students reflect on the question *“how will historians of the future talk about what’s happening today?”* These activities were designed for high school students, either in school or out of school and reflect the learning guidelines set by the Ministère de l’Éducation et de l’Enseignement supérieur.

One of the new activities, designed by Benoit Paquette, a teacher at École Secondaire Fernand-Lefebvre, asks students to exercise critical thinking in the creation of a press review. Through brainstorming keywords, analyzing articles and summarizing their findings, students will be able to draw a clear picture of the causes and consequences of the pandemic and the ways it is portrayed in the press.

Another activity, designed by Josée Pilette, a teacher at École secondaire Liberté-Jeunesse, helps students view the pandemic through a comparative historical lens and realize that - no matter how dire it might seem now, we’ve gone through tough times before and always emerged stronger. Focusing on government response and intervention in two key historical periods, it helps students gain a better understanding both of past crises and of the current crisis. The activity also incites students to review important aspects of the Grade 10 curriculum.

The JMS Covid 19 materials were launched in mid-April 2020 and other JMS initiatives are currently underway to help with distance learning, such as the conversion of the popular [JMS travelling exhibitions](#) to “video visits”, essentially *“if you can’t bring the class to the museum, JMS can bring the museum to the classroom”*.

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