

The same story, for every reader in your room.

A real story, published to classrooms on August 7, with the quiz and poll your students see. We made the side-by-side below for this page. Everything else is exactly what your students get.

GRADES 6-12

READING LEVELS YOU CONTROL

QUIZ + POLL INCLUDED

ANSWER KEY INCLUDED

ANY BROWSER, NOTHING TO INSTALL

THE SAME PARAGRAPH, THREE WAYS		
AS PUBLISHED 244 words 10 sentences 24.4 avg words/sentence "In March, a jury found Meta violated state consumer protection law and misled users about the safety of its platforms."	GRADE 8 271 words 14 sentences 19.4 avg words/sentence "In March, a jury found that Meta violated the state's consumer protection law, which makes it illegal for a company to mislead the public..."	GRADE 5 385 words 38 sentences 10.1 avg words/sentence "In March, a jury agreed. A jury is a group of people who decide a case. They found that Meta broke the state's consumer protection law..."

Read the numbers. The Grade 5 version is 58 percent *longer* than the original, with sentences half the length. Cutting makes text shorter. Rewriting makes it longer. A journalist rewrote this one, explained every legal term right in the text, and kept all eight facts.

You set the level for any story, from Grades 5–6 up to MAX, or students choose. They never see a grade label, and the class never knows who reads what.

TECHNOLOGY

By Nadya Yeh · 5 slides in the app · about 2 minutes · August 7, 2026

Meta Ordered to Pay \$567 Million Over Harm to Kids

A New Mexico court ruling could set the template for a wave of lawsuits accusing social media companies of harming young users.

THE HOOK

A New Mexico judge ordered Meta to create a \$567 million fund to address harms its platforms have caused children, bringing the company's total penalty in the case to \$942 million. Thursday's ruling imposes sweeping restrictions on how Facebook and Instagram can interact with minors, and could shape dozens of similar lawsuits against social media companies.

REWIND

New Mexico sued Meta in 2023, arguing that its platforms exposed children to sexually explicit content, connected them with predators, and contributed to mental health problems. In March, a jury found Meta violated state consumer protection law and misled users about the safety of its platforms.

WHAT THE RULING DOES

Judge Bryan Biedscheid ruled Meta's platforms are a "significant contributing factor" to New Mexico's youth mental health crisis. Under the order, Meta must cap underage users' time on Facebook and Instagram at 90 hours a month, hide "like" counts by default, limit push notifications overnight and during school hours, and further restrict how adults can interact with minors.

ZOOM IN

The judge also declared Meta's platforms a "public nuisance," meaning the harm was severe and widespread enough to affect the broader community, not just individual users. It appears to be the first time a social media company has received that designation.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

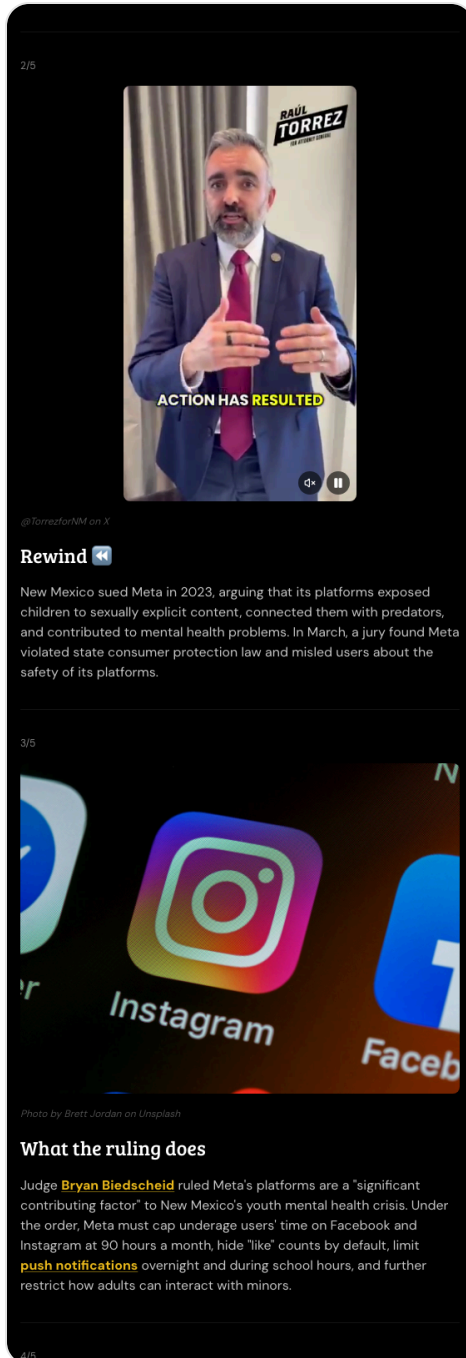
New Mexico's case is part of a much larger legal challenge to social media companies, with plaintiffs across the country alleging features such as infinite scroll contributed to widespread harm. Meta disputes those claims and says it will appeal the New Mexico ruling.

Nadya Yeh is a Senior Editor for Newsreel. She was previously Senior Editor at The China Project. She holds a master's from Columbia University's Global Thought program and a bachelor's from Williams College. Every Newsreel story carries a named reporter and is reviewed by an editor before it publishes.

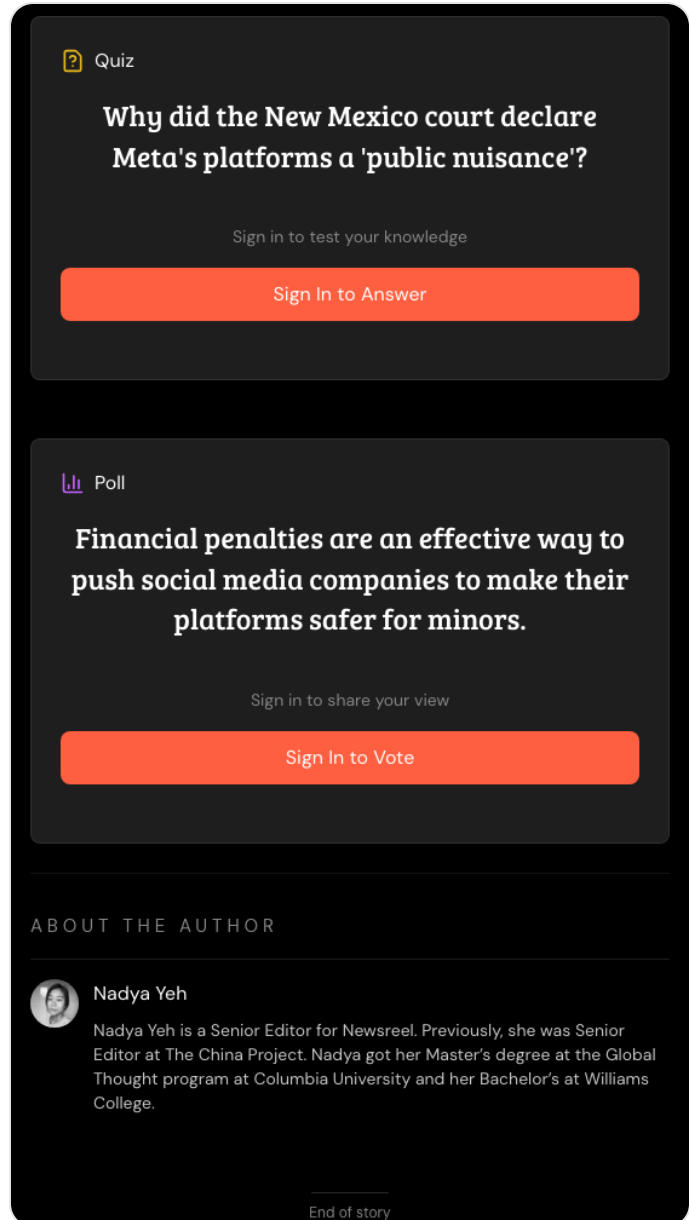
THE SAME STORY, IN THE APP

Five slides. The sources are in the story.

The attorney general saying it on camera. The apps the case is about. Students see the sources themselves, not just sentences about them. These screenshots are untouched.



SLIDES 2 AND 3 OF 5, WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VIDEO



THE QUIZ, THE POLL, AND THE BYLINE

GRADE 8

Meta Ordered to Pay \$567 Million Over Harm to Kids

THE HOOK

A judge in New Mexico has ordered Meta to put \$567 million into a fund to address the harm its platforms have caused children. That brings Meta's total penalty in the case to \$942 million. Thursday's ruling also sets sweeping new limits on how Facebook and Instagram can interact with users under 18, and it could shape dozens of similar lawsuits against social media companies.

REWIND

New Mexico sued Meta in 2023. The state argued that Meta's platforms exposed children to sexually explicit content, connected them with predators, and contributed to mental health problems. In March, a jury found that Meta violated the state's consumer protection law, which makes it illegal for a company to mislead the public, and that Meta misled users about how safe its platforms were.

WHAT THE RULING DOES

Judge Bryan Biedscheid ruled that Meta's platforms are a "significant contributing factor" in New Mexico's youth mental health crisis. Under the order, Meta must cap time on Facebook and Instagram at 90 hours a month for users under 18, hide "like" counts by default, limit push notifications overnight and during school hours, and further restrict how adults can interact with minors.

ZOOM IN

The judge also declared Meta's platforms a "public nuisance." That means the harm was severe and widespread enough to affect the whole community, not just individual users. It appears to be the first time a social media company has been given that label.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

New Mexico's case is part of a much larger legal fight. Plaintiffs across the country argue that features such as infinite scroll contributed to widespread harm. Meta disputes those claims and says it will appeal the New Mexico ruling.

Meta Must Pay \$567 Million Over Harm to Kids

THE HOOK

A judge in New Mexico says Meta must pay \$567 million. The money goes into a fund. A fund is money saved for one job. This fund will help children that the company hurt. In total, Meta now owes \$942 million in this case. The judge also set new rules for how Facebook and Instagram can treat users under 18. Dozens of other lawsuits against social media companies are still waiting to be decided. Other courts may look at what this judge decided.

REWIND

New Mexico sued Meta in 2023. To sue means to take someone to court. The state said Meta's apps showed children sexual content. The state said the apps let dangerous adults reach children. And the state said the apps made mental health problems worse. In March, a jury agreed. A jury is a group of people who decide a case. They found that Meta broke the state's consumer protection law. That law says a company must not trick people. They found that Meta did not tell users the truth about how safe its apps were.

WHAT THE RULING DOES

Judge Bryan Biedscheid ruled against Meta. A ruling is an official decision that Meta has to follow. He said Meta's apps played an important part in why more young people in New Mexico are struggling with mental health. Now Meta has to follow new rules. Users under 18 can spend only 90 hours a month on Facebook and Instagram. That is about three hours a day. Meta must turn off "like" counts. Users can turn them back on if they want. Meta must send fewer notifications at night and during school. And Meta must make it harder for adults to contact children.

ZOOM IN

The judge also declared Meta's apps a "public nuisance." Declared means he made it official. A public nuisance is something that harms a whole community, not just one person. This appears to be the first time a social media company has been called that.

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

This case is part of a much bigger fight. People all over the country have sued social media companies. They say features like infinite scroll, which keeps feeding you posts so the page never ends, played a part in that harm. Meta disagrees. Meta says it will appeal. An appeal asks a more powerful court to look at the case again.

WHAT NEVER CHANGES

All three versions carry the same eight facts: the \$567 million fund, the \$942 million total, the 2023 suit and what the state alleged, the March jury finding, the judge's ruling, all four new restrictions, the public nuisance designation, and Meta's dispute and appeal. Every version says Meta *misled* users, because that is what the jury found. None of them says Meta lied, because that is a different claim and no court made it.

QUIZ • AS STUDENTS SEE IT

Why did the New Mexico court declare Meta's platforms a 'public nuisance'?

- A The platform was promoting illegal local activities
- B The harm was widespread enough to affect the broader community**
- C The platform was spreading fake news
- D The platform was causing internet addiction

Answer: B. Most students land on B or D. D is the trap: it is what they assume the case is about, but it is not what "public nuisance" means. A student who skipped the Zoom in section picks D.

POLL • AS STUDENTS SEE IT

"Financial penalties are an effective way to push social media companies to make their platforms safer for minors."

STRONGLY
DISAGREE

DISAGREE

NEUTRAL

AGREE

STRONGLY
AGREE

Votes are anonymous. Students see the class split. You see the distribution, never names.

If the room agrees too fast. This statement tends to draw broad agreement, which makes for a short discussion. The sharper version is in note three below: ninety hours a month is about three hours a day. Ask whether that is a fair limit for someone under 18 and the room splits immediately.

FOR YOUR GRADEBOOK

Five more questions, written for this packet

The quiz above comes with the story. We wrote these five for this packet, so one story fills a gradebook column. Key at the bottom.

- 1 What did the jury find in March? (a) Meta broke a federal law (b) Meta violated state consumer protection law and misled users (c) Meta refused to pay the fund (d) Meta closed Instagram in New Mexico
- 2 Which is one of the new rules Meta must follow? (a) A ban on all advertising (b) Deleting accounts of users under 13 (c) A 90 hour monthly cap for users under 18 (d) Paying each user directly
- 3 The ruling "could shape dozens of similar lawsuits." What does that tell you about how courts work? (a) All courts must copy this ruling (b) Judges often look at earlier decisions when deciding similar cases (c) The Supreme Court has already agreed (d) Lawsuits in other states are now cancelled
- 4 The judge called the platforms a "significant contributing factor" in the youth mental health crisis. That phrasing means (a) the apps are one important cause among others (b) the apps are the only cause (c) the apps played no role (d) the cause is unknown
- 5 **Constructed response.** Meta says it will appeal. Using two facts from the story, give one argument Meta might make on appeal and one argument New Mexico might make in response.

Key: 1-b · 2-c · 3-b · 4-a · 5: strong answers use specific facts (the misled finding, the fund, the 90 hour cap, the public nuisance designation) on both sides.

IF YOU ASSIGN THIS TOMORROW

Four ways teachers have run this one

Each runs 10 to 15 minutes. Pair any two to fill a 43 minute period.

Compare the versions 12 MIN

Project all three versions and compare as a whole class, so no student's own level is on display. Ask what disappeared first. They notice the quote and the legal term go before the facts do.

Poll before, poll after 10 MIN

Run the poll, read the story, run it again. Movement in either direction is the discussion. Students who did not move get to say why.

Argue with the judge 15 MIN

Ninety hours a month is about three hours a day. Too high, too low, or the wrong instrument entirely? Then ask who should decide: a judge, a parent, or the user.

Steelman Meta 15 MIN

Meta says it will appeal. The story does not give its argument. Have students build the strongest version of it from what the ruling requires, then vote on whether it holds.

Standards (CCSS ELA anchor standards; every state framework, including post-CCSS states, cross-walks to these) – Compare the versions: R.1, R.4 · Poll before, poll after: SL.1 · Argue with the judge: R.8 · Steelman Meta: R.1, R.8

Before you assign this one. The story reports New Mexico's allegation that Meta's apps exposed children to sexual content and put them in contact with predators. That language appears at all three levels, including the one your most support-needing readers see. It is appropriate for grade 6 and up, worth a sentence of framing beforehand, and worth knowing which students it may land close to home for.

PRICING

One price a year, based on how many students you have.

TIER	STUDENTS	ANNUAL
Pilot / Starter	1 – 150	\$1,000
Department	151 – 500	\$2,250
Multi-Department	501 – 1,000	\$3,500
Campus License	1,001 – 3,000	\$4,500
Enterprise	3,000+	Custom

Every tier includes everything: the full archive, the dashboard, teacher guides, and as many students as your tier covers. Quote, W-9, and sole-source letter the same day you ask. At these prices most schools buy on a building PO. Your price is locked at renewal. Want to try it first? Ask for a demo class code and run it for two weeks. If your district needs the data privacy agreement signed before students log in, we sign first.

PRIVACY

Built for FERPA and COPPA. Students join with a class code and a display name. No emails, no rosters, no district IDs. Quiz results show up by display name in your dashboard, and you match names from your own class list. No ads, no ad trackers, no data sold. We sign state student data privacy agreements at setup. AI never writes a story. Where it helps elsewhere, it is disclosed at newsreel.co/ai-policy.

ACCESSIBILITY & EVIDENCE

Every story can be read aloud. Meets WCAG 2.1 AA; VPAT on request. NAMLE's 2025 Media Literacy Resource of the Year. 200+ classrooms, middle school through college. 115,000+ stories completed. In an 11-week Penn State pilot, 75 percent of 277 students were still reading by choice in week 11.

For procurement: our student data privacy agreement, technical and hosting details, and current accessibility status are available on request.

Newsreel Classroom is a daily news tool that helps students engage with high quality journalism instead of doomscrolling. Every story is reported by vetted journalists and subject matter experts and reviewed by an editor before it publishes. Five stories a weekday, each with a quiz and a poll. You see the full day before your students do.

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