

Teaching with Newspapers

Source: The Reading Teacher's Book of Lists, 4th Edition

Newspapers are available in both print and online editions. They also cover a wide variety of topics, and the best part is that they are up-to-date. As such, they can make a great addition to your curriculum. Newspapers offer unlimited opportunities for high interest, natural reading activities. The following list will help you get your students interacting with this type of text.

1. Nominate "words of the week" that students find in the newspaper in these categories: best verb, best noun, best adjective, funniest sounding, longest, hardest to pronounce/spell, etc.
2. Make a list of all the different activities and events scheduled for an upcoming weekend.
3. Find four news items about a current unit or topic of study, three articles about people in your academic field, two articles that use one of your vocabulary words, and one article that catches your students' interest.
4. Read the want ads and find three jobs that do not require a college education and three that do.
5. Draft a letter to the editor about a problem facing students in your school or town.
6. Find the lowest/highest selling price for a one-family house advertised in your part of town.
7. Make a list of all the countries listed in today's edition of the newspaper. Compare and contrast these countries and try to find a common thread that connects them all.
8. Classify the types of front-page stories for one week - for example, sports, human interest, political, etc.
9. Compare and contrast the headlines from various papers from around the country. Have students read different versions of the same story to begin to understand how each journalist may put a different "slant" on the same story.
10. Scavenger hunt for newspaper parts: banner, box, byline, caption, column, credit line, dateline, editorial, flag, headline, lead, masthead, news service, etc.