



Some suggested uses for *Newspapers In Education*

- Have students learn how to navigate through written works using a newspaper by identifying the index on the front page and checking that the classified ads, sports section, opinion section, local news, and other listed stories and sections appear on the pages indicated.
- Have students check their ability to research using the newspaper by finding stories about certain predetermined topics such as the meeting of a government agency, a press conference, a local event, or something related to area schools.
- Check reading comprehension by having students identify an article about a topic they are interested in, read it, and then summarize the story's contents and summarize it.
- Help students learn how to use maps and become more familiar with this area by having students identify where events and businesses described in the paper are located; for more advanced courses, this can be made more fun by measuring the distances and then using the map key to estimate the distances and travel times.
- Teach students how news coverage is written by identifying reporters and their beats; this lesson can be enhanced by asking students to think of their own interests and what type of news beat they would choose to follow: art, technology, entertainment, gossip, government, crimes & courts, etc.
- Help student's critical thinking by having the class read a collection of editorials from the opinion section and then determine the purpose of the writing: to inform the reader, to interpret a complex story, to entertain, and/or to influence the reader to do or think something they otherwise might not have.
- Have students identify all of the punctuation marks within a story then have them read it out loud and reflect on the influence the pauses have on the way the story sounds and how changing the placement of punctuation could change its meaning.
- Is a photo really worth 1000 words? Have students select a photo from the newspaper and have them describe what they see in the image as well as what they believe the related story is based on it. This could be the start of a discussion on assumptions or just a fun creative writing prompt.
- Have students find newspaper articles written in present, past, and future tenses. Along with better identifying the differences (went vs. will go) as well as a basis for discussion on what would change if it was in a different tense.
- Use a photo from the sports section, without reading it, have students write what they think is happening in the photo, what happened during the game, and who won the game. Then read the story as a class to determine what predictions were correct.
- The newspaper regularly features recipes, this can be a great tool to help students better understand fractions. Have students half the amount or double it to check their math skills; more advanced students could also be asked to use the provided serving size to determine the amount for a single serving or to serve the entire class.



- Have students use the prices from advertisements to write their own word problem and have a friend solve it, ie if a bag of carrot costs \$4 and Benny is buying 5 bags how much money will he owe at checkout?
- Use a recent editorial on a controversial topic as an example and ask students to write their own editorial about a topic you have discussed in class or that was prevalent in the area or time period your class is covering.
- Read an article or editorial in the newspaper and have students draw a political cartoon that represents its content.
- Using the newspaper, collect advertisements for products or services that were not available 5, 25, and 100 years ago and ask them to identify the scientific advances that have made these products possible, what might have been used before, and what the major differences are.
- Use today's weather map to find the longitude and latitude of the city with the highest temperature and the city with the lowest.
- Choose a story from today's newspaper and find the answers to the questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why? Which is most important? Where is each found in the story? Does the headline cover the most important fact(s)? Could it be written better?
- Choose something from the opinion page in the newspaper and underline each fact and circle each opinion. Discuss the logic of the ideas presented and the organization and development of the argument. This can also be a good time to introduce students to logical fallacies and cognitive biases that may make the arguments seem better than they are.
- Have students compile a list of words they are not familiar with in the paper then use graph paper to make a crossword puzzle with the words and their definitions.
- Use the television listings to graph the number of comedies, news, dramas, documentaries, etc. airing between a set time. This can be used as a point of discussion about what is on TV and when and why they may have picked those times.
- Select six headlines from the newspaper. First have students identify the noun, verb, and adjectives in each and then use the words to create new sentences. How many complete sentences can you use the headlines to create?
- Using a ruler, have students measure the size of ads, pictures, articles, and headlines on a given page as well as the area of the page overall and then determine the percentage of space given to each.
- Newspapers are also great for non-reading purposes, the paper itself can be used to provide a protective layer for surfaces when doing arts and crafts, is indispensable when making paper mache sculptures, plus The Dominion Post uses non-toxic recycled paper and soy-based ink so it is safe as bedding for pets and as a weed-guard for gardens.