

Reading Realities...
Using The Newspaper To Develop
And Enhance Reading, Writing
And Thinking Skills In Grades 4-12
And In Adult Literacy Training

Written And Designed By John E. Gunther And Ann West
Presented by Orlando Sentinel Newspaper In Education

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Foreword

Reading Realities contains 57 activity pages plus an additional 16 supplemental activities intended for use with your local newspaper. Your local newspaper is essential for successful completion of each of the activities. This guide is organized to address the different sections of the newspaper and can be successfully used with students in grades 4-12 and in adult literacy programs. A variety of reading and writing skills and concepts are addressed in this guide. As a classroom teacher, you may desire to modify some of the activities to address individual student needs or curriculum objectives.

The activities may be used successfully in most subject areas. Learning how to read and reading to learn are both addressed in the contents of this guide. How these activities are used in the classroom may be determined by the instructor. The activities are worded to the student for easy implementation in individualized instruction, large and small group instruction.

It is important that the classroom teacher realize that the motivating nature of the newspaper can be further enhanced by the instructor's knowledge and enthusiasm for the text, i.e. the newspaper. The interaction between student and teacher can be most important in understanding what is read in the newspaper.

The Authors

About the authors:

Ann West is an NIE consultant for newspapers and schools. She is author of several NIE guides and is actively involved in teacher training. She is president of News Relief, Inc., a desktop publishing firm in Lenexa, Kansas.

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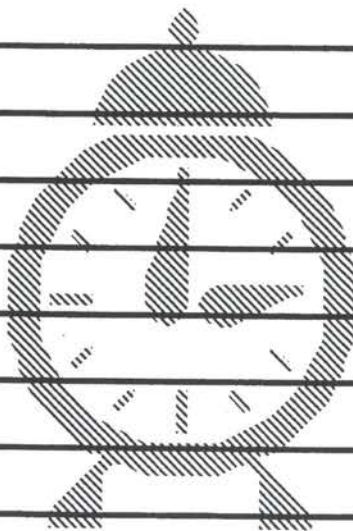
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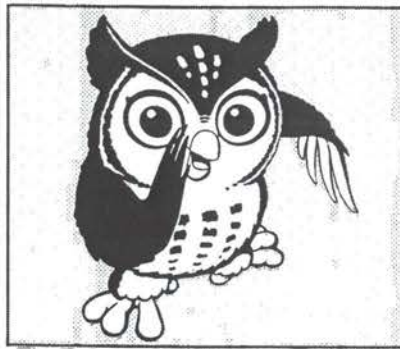


Newspaper readers may find they do not always have the time to read every word in the newspaper. If short on time, many readers *skim* the pages of the newspaper, collecting a great deal of information from the photos, headlines and lead paragraphs of news stories.

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- Practice skimming the newspaper for information by spending five minutes reading headlines, lead paragraphs, news indexes, photo captions, etc.
- After your five-minute time period, write in the space below, everything you learned from skimming the newspaper during the five minutes.
- As a class, present and discuss the information that you would not have gained, had you not spent five minutes with the newspaper.





Don't Miss Reading This Article # 2

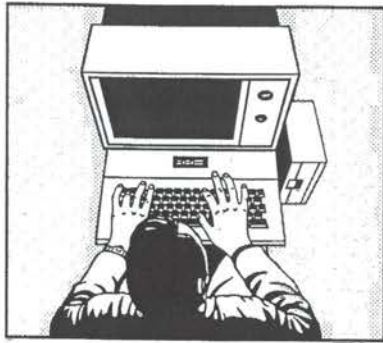
Newspaper readers frequently find stories, editorials, cartoons and other news items that they think would be of interest and value to someone else. The items may come from any section of the newspaper. Most importantly, readers of the newspaper learn to share information they have gained through the newspaper.

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- Examine several issues of your newspaper. Choose four items from the newspaper that you would recommend to someone else. The items can be anything from the newspaper, not just news stories.
- Clip these selections from the newspaper and attach them to this activity sheet. Identify your selections and describe how you made your decisions (your rationale) for each item.

ITEM	DECISION RATIONALE

- Start a journal of unique items from the newspaper. Clip items from the newspaper and paste them in your journal for several weeks. Share your journal with your family.



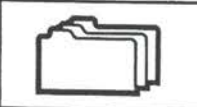





Finding The Five W's And H

3

The main purpose of news stories is to inform us of important news events. News stories are written in the inverted pyramid style—giving the reader the most important information in the lead. The lead—or first paragraph—of a news story should answer the questions who, what, when and where. The why and how should be explained later in the story.

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- Read several news stories in one issue of your newspaper.
- Select two stories and describe the 5 W's and H of each. Complete the chart below. Clip and attach to this activity page the two news stories you analyzed.

Five W's & H	News Story #1	News Story #2
 WHO		
 WHAT		
 WHEN		
 WHERE		
 WHY		
 HOW		



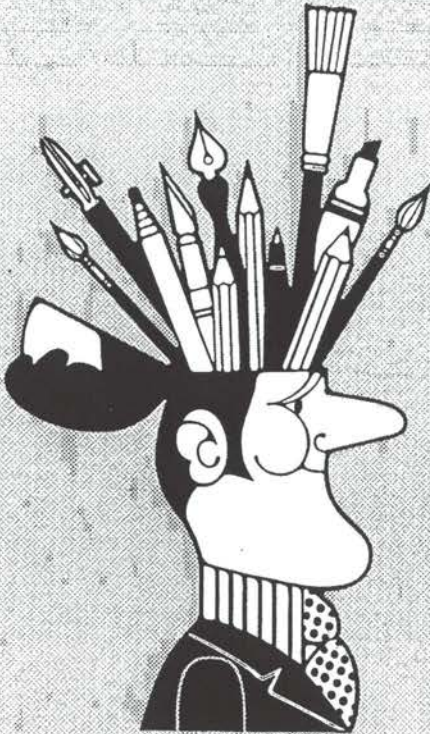
Summarizing The News

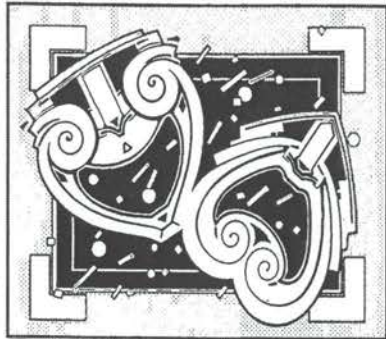
4

A news summary provides the reader a quick review of the important news events. A news-in-brief column may be a regular feature of many newspapers. This technique allows readers who may not have time to read every story a quick glimpse of many stories. Some papers may provide news summaries every day; others may provide summaries on selected days.

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- Assume that you have been hired by your newspaper to write a "News-in-Brief" column. Your column is to appear every day in the newspaper.
- Read each article on the front page of your newspaper. Prepare a two to three sentence summary of each article and write it in the space below. Attach the front page you used to this activity page.









Determining Different Roles

5

Contemporary newspapers must play many roles to satisfy the needs of intelligent readers. While the traditionally major role of the newspaper is to keep citizens informed, the newspaper also entertains, performs a service and interprets the news. The newspaper serves the needs of a diverse audience.

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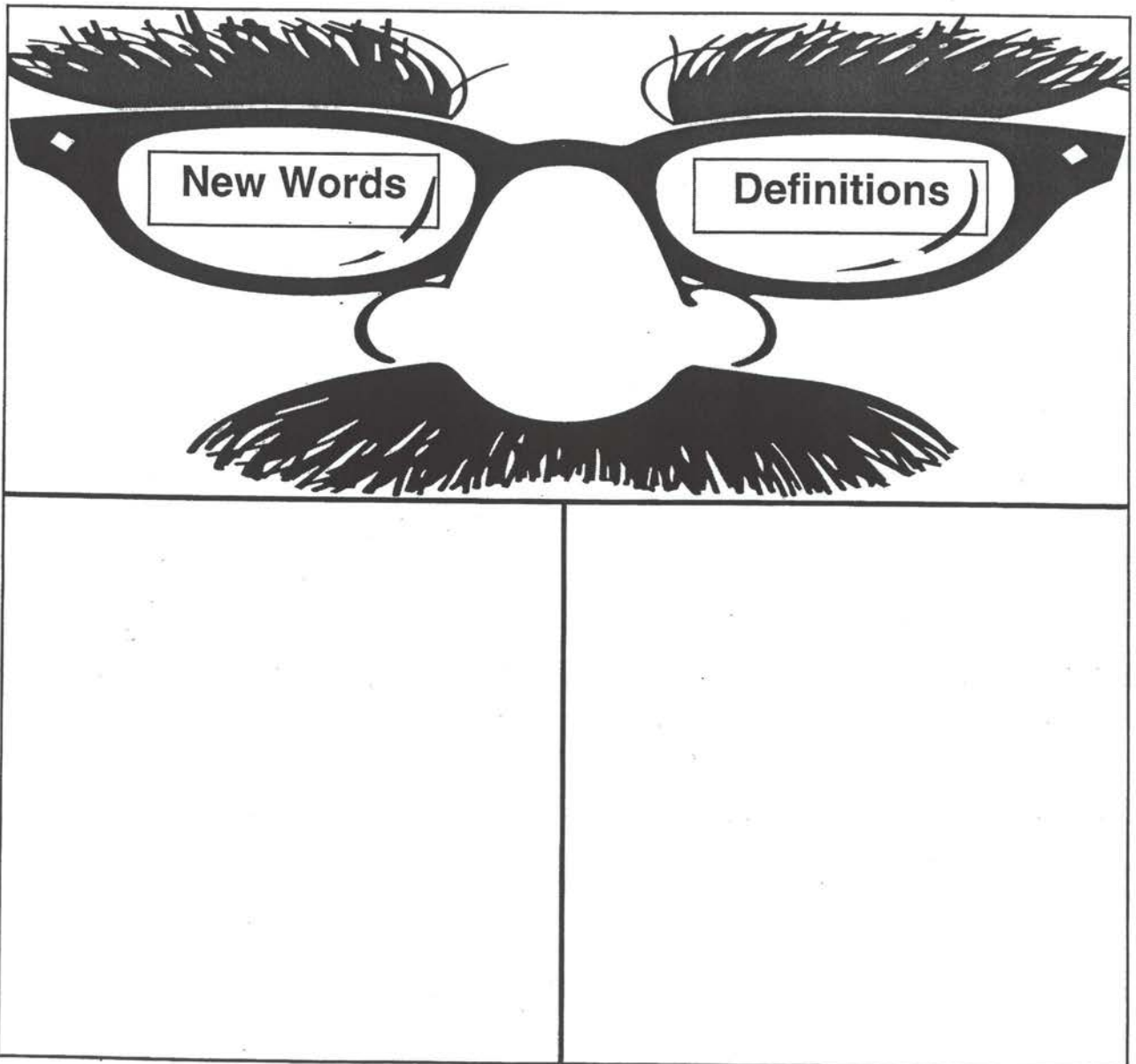
- Examine one issue of your newspaper. Use your newspaper to locate at least two examples of each of the different roles of the newspaper—to inform, to interpret, to perform a service, to entertain. List the examples you find by briefly describing what the item is and the section and page number on which the item was found.
- Within a small group, discuss whether any of the newspaper items found serve more than one purpose.

Newspaper Examples Found	Roles
	Inform 
	Interpret 
	Entertain 
	Perform Service 



Our language constantly changes. The most obvious change may be in the new words that are coming into usage. The newspaper gives us a written record of the changing vocabulary. Reading the newspaper helps an individual keep current with the latest terminology in the everyday world.

- Read at least one copy of your newspaper. Examine each of the sections, including the ads, sports, comics, etc.
- Identify at least five words that you believe would not have appeared in the newspaper 10 years ago. List and define the words in the space below.





Searching For Context Clues

7

When we use the words surrounding an unfamiliar word to help us make an educated guess as to the meaning of the unfamiliar word, we are using context clues. Skilled use of context clues can increase a reader's speed and vocabulary.

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- Examine your newspaper and identify five words that are unfamiliar to you. Clip the words and paste them on the chart below.
- Using only context clues, write what you believe might be the meaning of each word. Compare your guess with the dictionary definition. Indicate on the chart if your guess was correct or if there was a difference.

UNFAMILIAR WORD	GUESS USING CONTEXT	DICTIONARY	DIFFERENCE



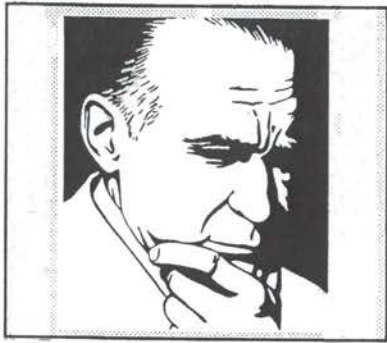
Identifying Meanings of Symbols # 8

Symbols are often used in place of words to communicate a message. People see or "read" symbols throughout every day. These symbols are pictures of things that have become synonymous with ideas. A dollar sign, for example, is a universal sign for money.

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- Examine one issue of your newspaper. Look for symbols that are used in the newspaper. Make sure that you use all sections.
- Clip and paste in the space below at least 10 symbols that you located in the newspaper. In addition, give a brief identification of each symbol.

<u>SYMBOL</u>	<u>IDENTIFICATION</u>



Differentiating Fact And Opinion # 9

Unlike a history book, a newspaper contains both objective and subjective writing. Objective writing can be identified by its strict adherence to the facts, whereas subjective writing is characterized by the use of strong adjectives and expressions of opinion and persuasiveness.

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- Examine one issue of your newspaper. Locate five sentences that illustrate objective writing and five sentences that are written in a subjective manner. Clip or copy the examples from your newspaper to fill in the spaces below.

Objective

Subjective

- Rewrite two of the subjective sentences so that they are objective.





Speaking Figuratively

10

Exciting, expressive word choices are known as figures of speech. Figures of speech create vivid pictures in the minds of readers, illustrating meaning and communicating clearly the message of the writer. Some of the most commonly used figures of speech are irony, metaphor, satire, simile and hyperbole.

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- Prior to beginning this activity, think about which parts of the newspaper might be most likely to contain figures of speech.
- Below is a list of common figures of speech and a short explanation of each. Examine your newspaper and find an example of as many figures of speech as possible. Clip the examples and paste them in the correct box. You may want to use your dictionary or language arts texts for additional information about the figures of speech.

IRONY

(Meaning the opposite of what is expressed)

METAPHOR

(One thing is said to be another very different object)

SATIRE

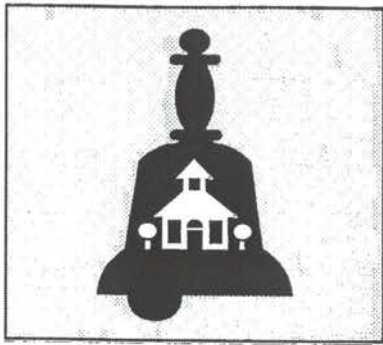
(Use of sarcasm to poke fun at someone)

SIMILE

(Comparing two unlike objects using *like* or *as*)

HYPERBOLE

(An exaggeration or extravagant statement)



Recognizing Sound Words

11

Onomatopoeia is the use of words that sound like what they mean. For example, the words *buzz* and *cuckoo* sound like what they represent. A writer often uses onomatopoeia to help the reader “hear” a description. News feature stories and comic strips frequently contain examples of onomatopoeia.

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- Examine one issue of your newspaper. Focus on headlines and retail ads to locate and clip as many “sound words” as you can find. If you want to find more “sound words,” use the features and comics of the newspaper to locate additional examples.
- Write or clip and paste the examples you find into one of the two categories below.

**QUIET
WORDS**

**NOISY
WORDS**

--	--



Defining Homographs

12

A homograph is a word which has two or more unrelated meanings. The words may be pronounced differently, although the spelling will not change. When reading the newspaper or any print material, a reader needs to be able to identify a homograph in order to comprehend the correct message.

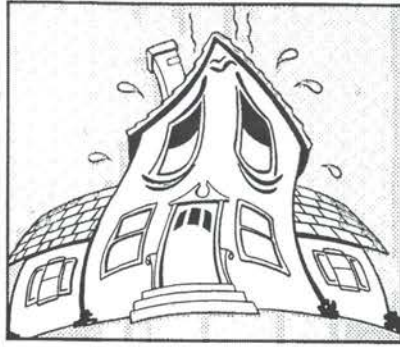
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- Homographs can be located throughout the newspaper, although they may appear most frequently in the sports section. Read one copy of your newspaper and locate at least five homographs. Ex. The **wind** blew down the tree.—I must **wind** my watch.
- Using the space below, list the homograph and the definition that “fits” the way the word is used in the newspaper story.

Homograph

Definition





Personifying In The News

13

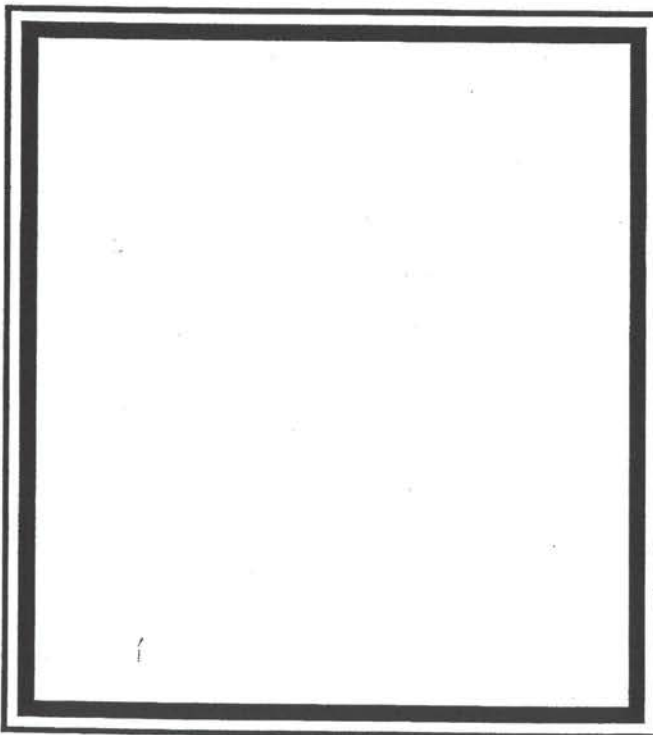
Personification is a unique figure of speech frequently used in descriptive writing. Personification is used to give to inanimate objects qualities that make the object appear to be more lifelike. Personification may be used in the newspaper to add interest and create vivid images.

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- Use your newspaper to identify objects that have been personified. For example, *A house was crying out for attention.*
- Find as many examples of personification as you can and note them below.
- Select an object pictured in an advertisement that you think could easily be personified. Write a brief descriptive paragraph in which you personify the object you found in the advertisement. Clip and paste the picture of your object below to accompany your writing.

Examples of Personification Found

My Example of Personification



**Clip and paste the
item you have
personified here.**



Solving Problems

14

Newspapers give us a daily record of problems that need to be solved. The problems may be old or new, serious or of little significance. Reading the newspaper, however, is critical to understanding the problems that face our society.

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- Examine your newspaper for a few days. In addition to the news stories, make sure you read the editorials and letters to the editor. Select a problem that is of interest to you. Clip all information you can find about the problem.
- Re-read all you have collected about the problem and complete the following:

A. Describe the problem: _____

B. List possible solutions to the problem: _____

C. Describe your proposed solution: _____

D. List the positives (pro) and negatives (con) of your solution:

Pro:	Con:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____





Deciding What Is Newsworthy

15

Every day newspaper editors make decisions about what will be printed in the limited space in their newspaper. Certain factors or criteria are considered in determining what is newsworthy. These factors help answer the questions editors face.

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Elements That Make News (Criteria For Determining Newsworthiness)

Timeliness

Is the news current or of interest to readers at this time?

Suspense

Does the story tell of suspense created by disasters?

Conflict

Is there a conflict dealing with interesting persons, situations or emotions?

Proximity

Did the action take place nearby? Or, does the story relate to local needs and interests?

Consequences

Does the story affect a large number of persons?

Emotion

Does the story deal with love, pity, horror, fear, hate, jealousy, etc.?

Prominence

Does the story deal with well-known people or social groups?

Progress

Does the story tell about discoveries or advances of humankind through science, medicine or technology?

Importance

Is the story of importance to the reader's work, family, education or health?

Unusual

Is the story unusual?

- Read the news stories in one or more issues of your newspaper. Locate five different stories that are examples of five newsworthy factors. List the story headlines and newsworthy factors in the space below.

Headline

Newsworthy Factor






Predicting Historical Significance # 16

Today's news is tomorrow's history. Newspapers provide us with a chronicle of important daily events. In the future, some of the events will be considered important while others will be considered to be of little significance.

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- Assume that you are going to write a history book that will include sections on local, state and national events.
- Examine your newspaper for a period of one week. In the space below, note the major local, state and national news events that are reported for the one-week period.

LOCAL 	STATE 	NATIONAL 

- From the lists above, determine which two events in each category will be included in your history book.

<i>Local Events</i>	<i>State Events</i>	<i>National Events</i>
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.



Looking At Significance Of News # 17

Newspapers report news events from all over the world. Being able to read a news story and determine what and how the events reported in the story will or may affect you, your family and your community is an important skill that will be used often in your future.

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- Examine the news stories in one issue of your newspaper. Select three stories of interest to you.
- Read each story and describe the significance of the story to you, your family or your community.

News Story #1 Summary	Significance To You, Your Family Or Community

News Story #2 Summary	Significance To You, Your Family Or Community

News Story #3 Summary	Significance To You, Your Family Or Community



Formulating Questions

18

Prior to reading news stories, most readers are likely to think of questions that they expect will be answered by reading a news story. Deciding what we want to learn from a story before we read it helps us focus on what is important.

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- Examine one issue of your newspaper. Select a news story that you would like to read. Write the headline below.

- Before you read this story, write down some things you already know about the subject.

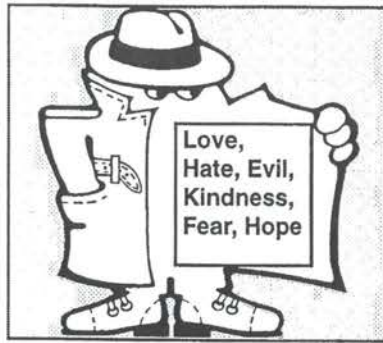
- Write two or three questions that you assume will be answered by reading the article.

1.

2.

3.

- Read the news story. Write, if possible, the answers to your questions and what you learned from the article.



Searching For Themes

#20

The theme of a news article or story is its underlying message. For example, the theme of a news story about rising prices may be *inflation*, while the theme of a story about volunteers in a community may be *goodness or love*.

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- Examine the themes listed below. Read the news stories in your newspaper and find an example of each theme. Write the headline of each article and a short summary of the story.
- In addition, select two other articles. Identify the theme and headline and write a brief summary.

<p>THEME: FEAR</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>	<p>THEME: LOVE</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>
<p>THEME: EVIL</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>	<p>THEME: GOODNESS</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>
<p>THEME:</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>	<p>THEME:</p> <p>HEADLINE:</p> <p>SUMMARY:</p>



Human Drama In The News

21

Newspapers report an incredible range of events. News stories are selected and included in the newspaper because of their interest and importance to the reader. Many of the stories involve a great deal of drama and would make interesting short stories.

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- Read the news stories in a few issues of your newspaper.
- Select a news story that you believe might make an interesting subject for a short story. Use your imagination and think of possible short story ideas related to the news story. What would be the plots and settings for your stories? Who would be the main characters?
- Clip and attach to this page the news story from which you have created your short story. Write your short story on separate paper and mount your story on construction paper for classroom display.

Headline of News Story _____

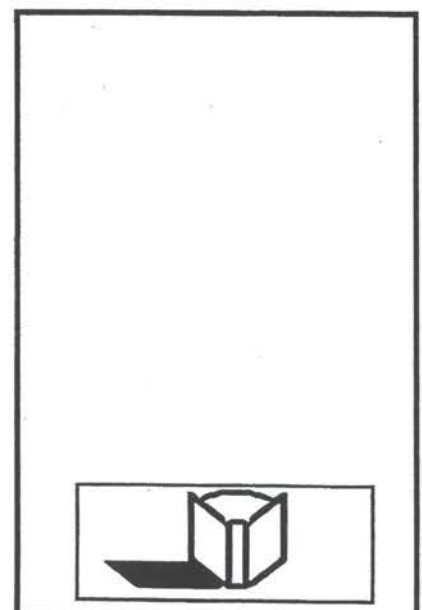
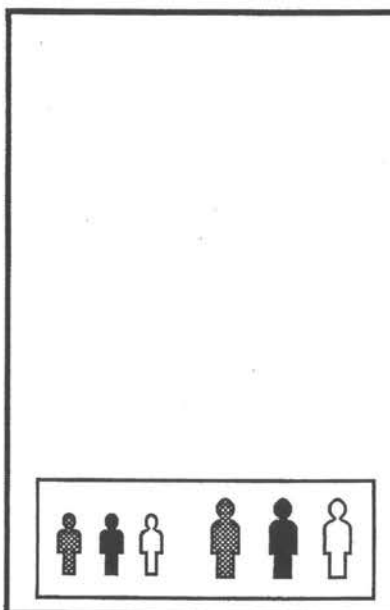
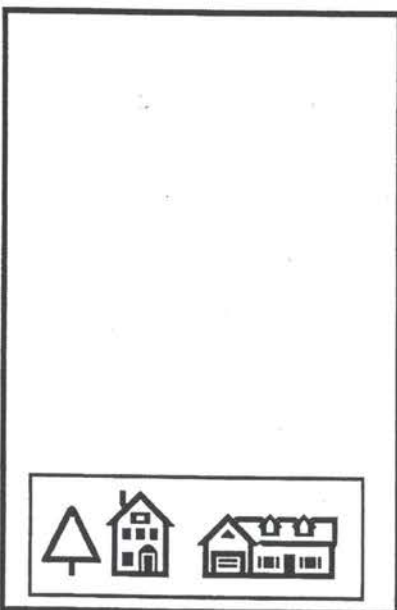
Title of Your Short Story _____

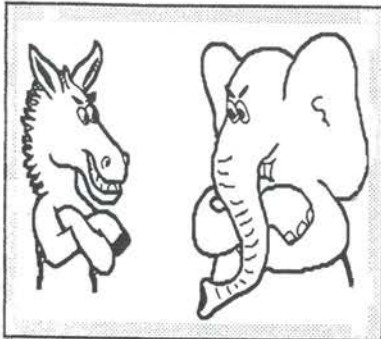
Theme of Your Short Story _____

Setting

Characters

Plot





Conflicting Ideas

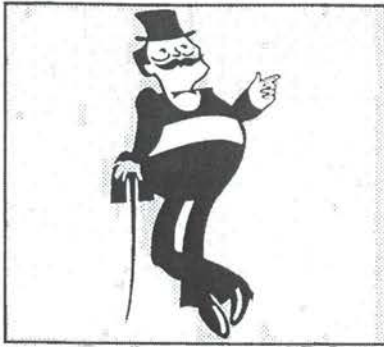
22

Much of what we read from both books and the newspaper involves conflict. Conflict, of one kind or another, is a constant theme in classic and contemporary literature. Conflicts such as man vs. man, man vs. nature, man vs. himself, man vs. society are evident daily in news stories.

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- Examine your newspaper for news stories reporting different types of conflict.
- Select one news story and one comic strip involving conflict and provide the following answers or information.

	Story Headline	Comic Strip Title
Describe the conflict.		
Describe the different sides involved in the conflict.		
What caused the conflict?		
How can the conflict be resolved?		



Editorializing The News

23

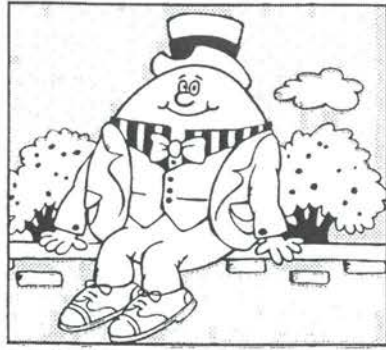
News stories are expected to be objective and unbiased. Subjectivity, opinion and bias are reserved for the editorial pages and should not be found in news articles.

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- Read the news stories in one issue of your newspaper. Select one story of particular interest to you. Clip the story and attach it to this sheet.
- In the space below, rewrite or change the news story and headline so that it is no longer objective, but is now subjective and biased. Use your imagination as you rewrite the story. Your finished story should be a good example of biased journalism.



Headline:



Rewriting Literature As News

#24

News stories are written in inverted pyramid style, giving the most important facts first. Works of literature usually withhold these facts until the latter part of the story, or climax. These different styles of writing can be easily understood by rewriting a work of literature as a news story.

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- Select a favorite nursery rhyme, ballad or short story. In the space below, list the names of the most important characters and the important elements and events of the selected piece of literature.

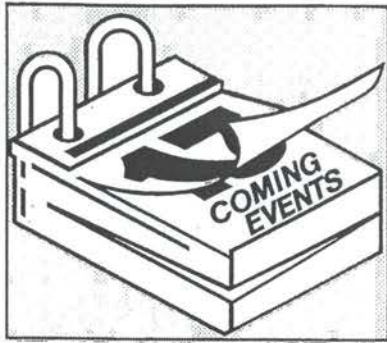
Who? (Main Characters)

What? (Basic Plot or Event)

When and Where? (Setting)

How and Why? (Major Details Leading to Event or Supporting the Plot)

- These notes above are very similar to those a reporter must have completed and verified prior to writing a news story. Use the information you have recorded above to rewrite the piece of literature as a news story. Be sure to write a headline for your news story to replace the original literary title. (Study the headlines in your newspaper for ideas about how headlines are written.) Use the remaining space on this page and on back to complete your news story.



Looking Into The Future

25

One thing that is predictable about the future of our society is that change will occur. It may be difficult, but interesting to predict what events will be reported in future newspapers.

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- Assume that you are the editor of your local newspaper in the year 2050. Using your knowledge of current events and your creativity, predict what you believe might be front page news in 2050. For your future front page, write at least three headlines for stories that might appear.

Future Headlines That Might Appear

1.

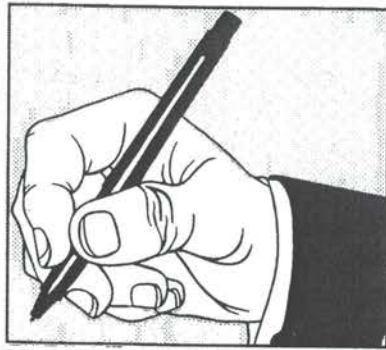
2.

3.

- Examine the three headlines you have written. Select one headline and write a lead paragraph for your news story of the future.

Headline _____

Lead _____



Analyzing The Editorials

26

Editorials are written to criticize, praise, inform, persuade, honor or entertain. The editorial section of a newspaper may include unsigned editorials, letters to the editor, cartoons and editorial columns written by expert commentators. The editorial page can provide a reader with a vast array of opinion on different topics and issues.

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- Read the editorial section of one issue of your newspaper.
- Choose an editorial of interest to you. Analyze or critique the editorial by providing answers to the questions below. Clip and attach the editorial to this activity page.

What is the topic of the editorial?

What is the main idea and purpose of the editorial?

What are some important opinions from the editorial?

What is your opinion of the editorial?

In this space, write a brief letter to the editor in which you respond to the editorial you analyzed. You may either agree or disagree with the editorial in your letter.



Interpreting Editorial Cartoons

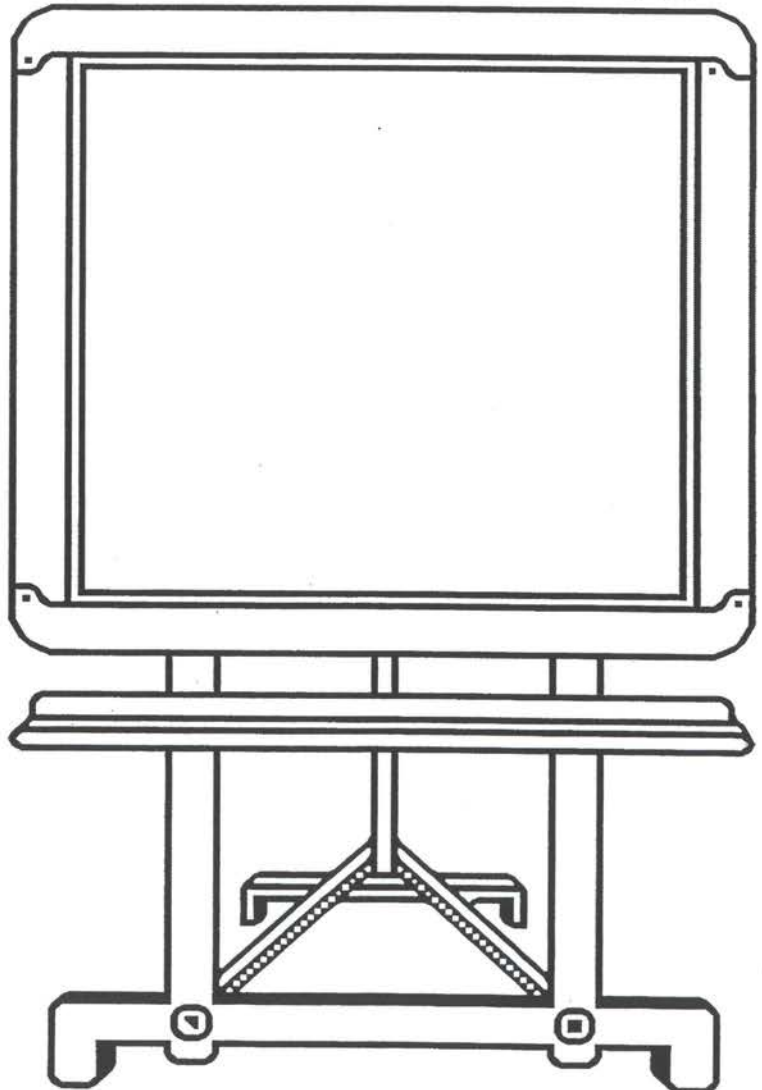
27

Editorial cartoons are an important form of expression used in editorial pages. Cartoons are a popular feature of any newspaper and visually present a point of view about current issues or events. Interpreting an editorial cartoon requires an awareness and understanding about current events.

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- Examine the editorial cartoons in your newspaper for several days. Note how each cartoon is drawn, the symbols that may be used in each and the issues/events that are focused on in each cartoon.
- Select one cartoon and briefly describe the message the cartoonist is trying to communicate. Use the space below for your response. Clip and attach the cartoon to this activity page.
- In the box provided, draw or describe your own editorial cartoon on an issue that is important to you.

Message of the Cartoon Selected





Distinguishing Fact From Opinion # 28

It is extremely important for readers to be able to tell the difference between fact and opinion. The editorial pages of newspapers contain an interesting variety of facts and opinions. Editorials usually attempt to offer a reader an analysis of events and issues. An analysis represents one or more interpretations of the facts related to the editorial.

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- Read the editorials and columns in two or more issues of your newspaper. Select two of the writings that are of interest to you. Clip and attach your selections to this activity sheet.
- In the spaces below, list statements of fact and opinion from your selections. In addition, discuss whether you agree or disagree with the writer's opinions.

Statements of Fact	Statements of Opinion	My Opinion

#1

Statements of Fact	Statements of Opinion	My Opinion

#2





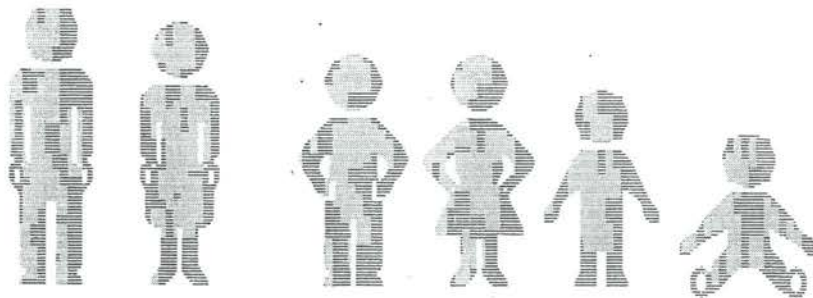
Describing Human Values

29

A wide range of issues and events are identified and explained in the editorial pages of newspapers. Individual values are expressed in editorials, news commentaries and letters from readers.

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- Read the editorials and commentary sections of one issue of your newspaper. Think about the different values that are expressed or represented in the various interpretations or viewpoints of the news.
- In the space below, identify at least five value statements that were evident in the editorials and commentaries. Values should be evident through expressions of opinion. Note if you agree or disagree with each value statement. (Note: An example of a value statement might read like this—*Every person should play a daily role in keeping our environment clean.*)



Value Statement

Agree/Disagree

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



Changing A Point Of View

30

Editorials are written to interpret the news and, in many instances, attempt to persuade the reader to accept a particular opinion or viewpoint. Changes in different words can affect the meaning and general impact of any editorial.

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- Select an editorial from your newspaper. Clip the editorial and paste it in the space below or on the back of this page if more room is needed.
- Select and underline five words in the editorial you will substitute with synonyms and antonyms.
- Write your synonyms on one side and the antonyms on the other. Draw a line from the substituted words to the words underlined in the editorial.

Synonyms

Antonyms

**Paste Editorial
Here**



Designing Political Cartoons

31

Political cartoons are visual, symbolic representations of different points-of-view. Most political cartoons start as strong reactions to events, persons, policies or issues and grow into visual representations of those feelings.

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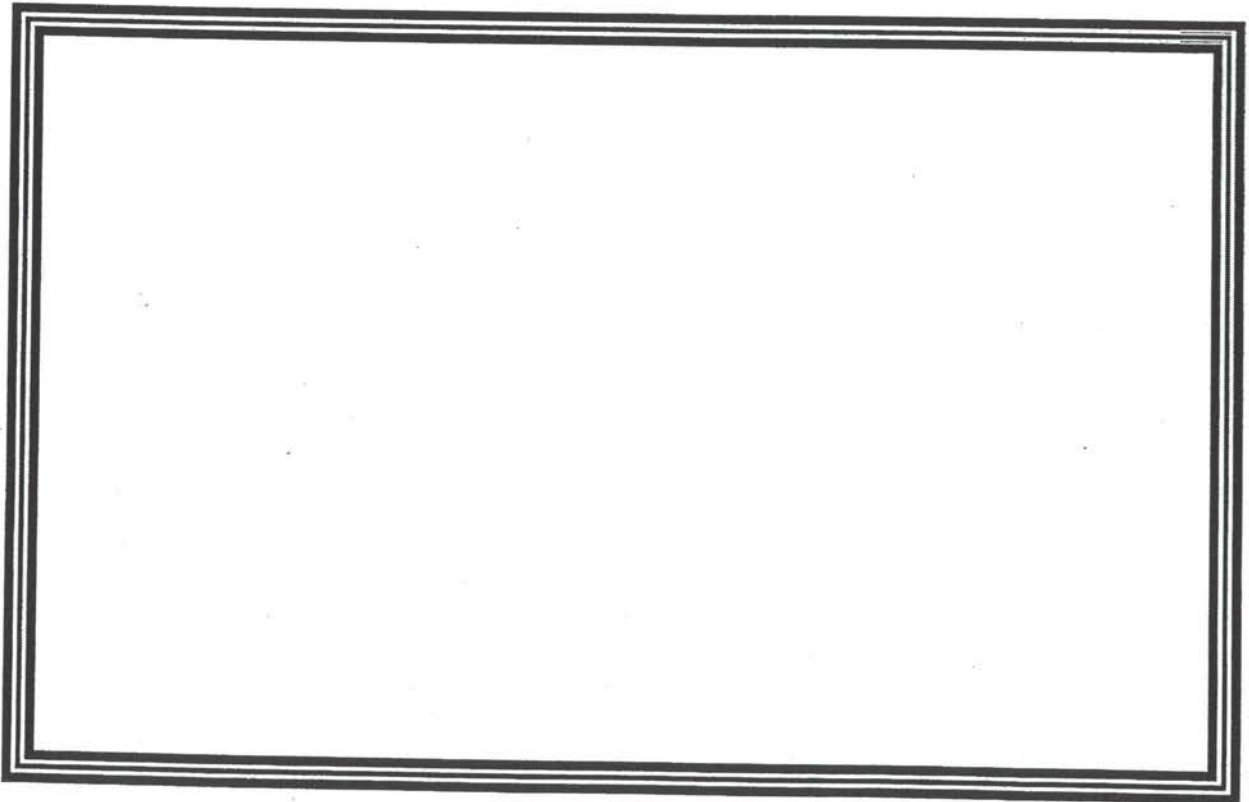
- Select an article or letter from the editorial pages of your newspaper. Identify the specific issue dealt with in your selection.

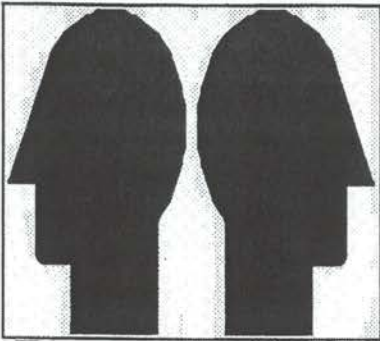
ISSUE/TOPIC

- Summarize the position of the author on the subject you have chosen.

SUMMARY OF POSITION

- Draw a political cartoon to illustrate your viewpoint on this subject.





Illustrating Another Viewpoint

#32

Many readers of newspapers agree that a picture can be worth a thousand words. The viewpoint expressed in a long letter may be communicated with a simple drawing. An illustration, drawing or photo can communicate a great deal of information; the same information can often be expressed through an editorial cartoon.

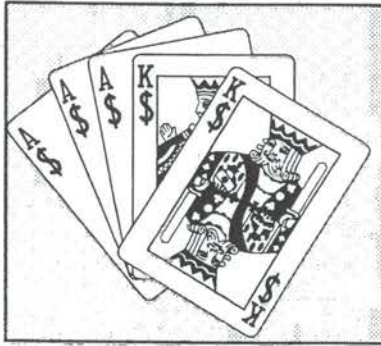
Copyright ©1989, News Relief, Inc.

- Choose a letter to the editor that expresses an opinion you believe would benefit by translation into an editorial cartoon.
- Clip and paste the letter below.
- Draw an editorial cartoon that illustrates the letter writer's feeling about the subject in the letter.

Editorial Cartoon Reflecting Viewpoint in Letter to Editor

Letter to the Editor









Recognizing Elements of Ads

33

A good newspaper advertisement gets the attention of the consumer through positive treatment of the product or service advertised. An advertisement may also persuade by showing potential consumers the benefits or emphasizing need for the product/service. Additionally, an advertisement usually asks the consumer to take action.

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- Examine the retail (not classified) advertisements in your newspaper. Read only those ads for local businesses.
- From the advertisements you have examined, find examples of ads that use the basic elements described above. Use several ads to demonstrate the variety of approaches advertisers use.

Date/Section/Page Business Placing Ad	Attention Getter	Consumer Benefit And/Or Need	Consumer Action To Be Taken
			



Analyzing Persuasive Techniques # 34

Techniques of persuasion are used by advertisers to help convince people to buy their products or services. Both national and local retail ads are designed to make products and services as appealing as possible.

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- Examine the retail or display ads in one issue of your newspaper.
- Locate an example of each of the following persuasive techniques. Below each technique, describe the example that you located in the newspaper.

Testimonial

A picture and/or statement from a famous living person endorsing the advertised product...

Transfer

Associating something we view with pride with a product (U.S. Flag, Statue of Liberty, etc.)...

Glittering Generality

General positive statements without specifics (*It's good for you, Four out of five agree, etc.*)...

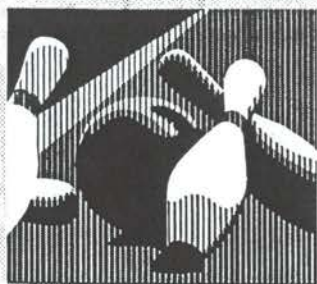
Plain Folks or Elitism

Techniques that are designed to appeal to the common person or to those with high economic status...

Bandwagon

Attempts to persuade by stressing the popularity of the product...

- Design an advertisement for a product of your choice. Use at least two of the persuasive techniques. Design your ad on the back of this page.









Selling To A Targeted Audience # 35

Companies advertise, of course, to try and convince us to buy particular products or services. While many ads are designed to appeal to almost all consumers, some ads are designed or *targeted* for certain types of consumers. Reading an ad means, in part, understanding the ad's intended target or audience.

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- Read and examine the local business ads in one issue of your newspaper.
- Identify at least one ad designed to appeal to each of the groups in the chart below.

Advertising Targets	Product or Service	Store or Business	Section & Page
Families 			
Teenagers 			
Women 			
Men 			
High Income 			
Budget Conscious 			



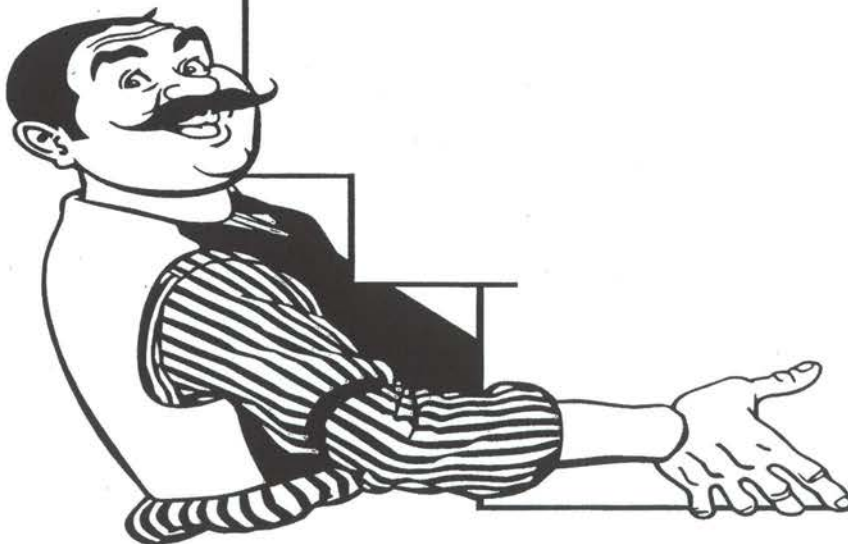
Finding Commonly Used Words # 36

There are certain words that are most frequently used in newspaper advertisements. The words, in many instances, may appeal to certain emotions or are likely to provide a positive image.

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- Examine ten retail advertisements in your newspaper. Select ads that use only a few words. List the words in the space below.

- From the list above, identify the words that appear most frequently in the ads. In addition, describe why certain words are used by advertisers.

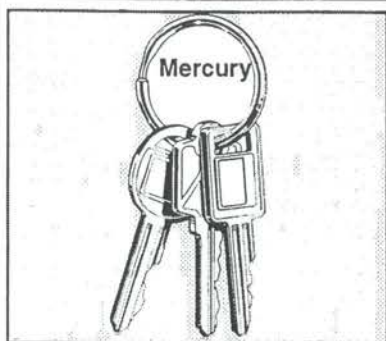




Abbreviations are used for a number of reasons throughout the newspaper. Classified advertising, however, is one section of the newspaper in which abbreviations are expected by the reader. Since words and lines cost money, abbreviations are used throughout the classifieds.

- Read through the classified advertising in one issue of your newspaper. In the space below, list 20 abbreviations from the classifieds. Next to each abbreviation, write the word it represents. Use context clues to help interpret the meaning of each abbreviation.

Word Represented



Analyzing Product Names

38

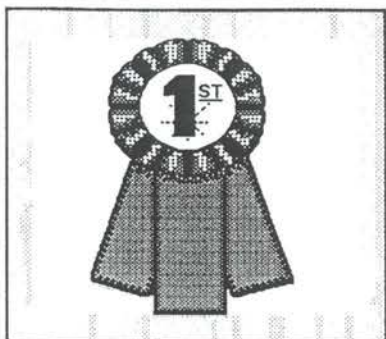
A reader of advertisements in the newspaper is likely to discover interesting names of products being advertised. The range of product names can be easily observed by examining the automobile advertising in the classified advertising section of the newspaper.

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- Examine the classified advertising in your newspaper. Look especially for product names in the automobile category of the classifieds. Circle the names of at least 20 different cars.
- Select six names of automobiles you have circled and complete the chart below. Use your dictionary to help define the names.

Car Name	Meaning/Definition	Your Opinion of Name

- In your opinion, what are some words that would make good names for a car?



Evaluating Advertising Quality

39

Newspapers could not exist in their current form without advertising. Like anything else, advertisements differ in their quality and the impact they have on the consumer. Reading and reacting to advertising is an important part of being a good consumer.

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- Imagine that you are going to help judge a newspaper advertising contest. No specific rules have been given. You are expected to establish your own criteria for evaluating the ads.
- Examine one issue of your newspaper and clip any five display ads (not classified). Attach the ads to this sheet. In the space below, decide on your criteria for evaluating the ads selected. Rank each of the ads selected from best (1) to worst (5) and describe why you ranked each ad as you did.

Criteria for Judging Newspaper Advertising	Ranking (1 to 5)	Ad Identification	Reason for Ranking



Criticizing the Critics

40

Critical reviews are often published in newspapers as features and as a service to readers. Reviewers are usually experts who offer opinions and judgment about their area of expertise. These critical reviews frequently focus on restaurants, theatre, movies, television, books, music and various entertainment events.

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- Read and clip at least two entertainment reviews from your newspaper. The reviews can be about any form of entertainment.
- In the spaces below, answer the following questions about the reviews you have collected.
 1. Did the reviewer like or dislike what he/she reviewed?
 2. Describe the tone of the review. Was it sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek, positive, negative, cynical?
 3. List the adjectives which helped you determine the opinion of the reviewer.

REVIEW #1

1.

2.

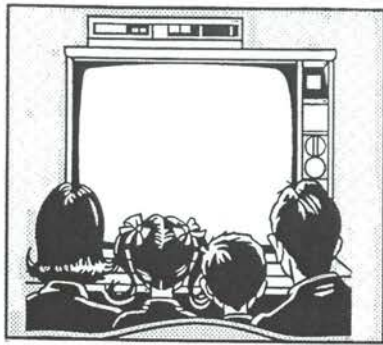
3.

REVIEW #2

1.

2.

3.



Writing A Critical Review

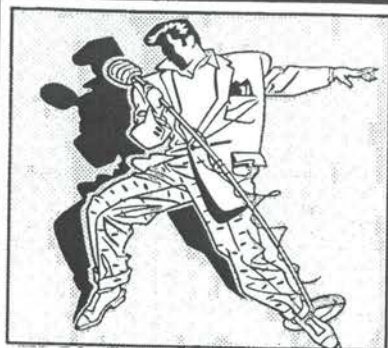
41

Reviews are written by experts and are intended to help us get the most for our entertainment or leisure time dollar. Many readers follow the critic's advice and spend their leisure time funds according to the recommendations made in the review.

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- Read the entertainment reviews (books, television programs, movies, restaurants, concerts, etc.) in your newspaper to acquaint yourself with the way reviews are written.
- Using any form of entertainment that you choose, write a review of the event, program, restaurant or work. Be sure and supply reasons and examples to support your opinions. Use the space below and the back of this sheet for your review.

Review of _____



Describing Entertainers/Events # 42

Throughout the newspaper, stories may describe a person, a situation or event by using adjectives. In stories about entertainment events, the performers and performances are likely to receive reviews containing many adjectives which describe performers or performances

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- Examine your newspaper and clip a picture of an entertainer or entertaining event. Attach the photo to this page.
- Read the review or story and identify five adjectives that the newspaper used to describe the person or event. List the adjectives below.



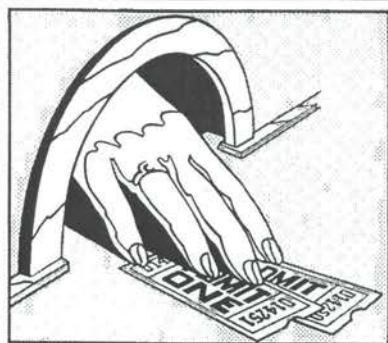
Five Adjectives Used in the Story/Review

- In the space below, list five adjectives you would use to describe the person or event.

Five Adjectives You Would Use



- What differences are there in the newspaper's adjectives and the ones you listed?



Creating New Movie Titles

#43

Newspapers feature movie guides and directories as a part of their advertising. However, these directories provide a service to readers who are *shopping* for a movie to see during leisure time hours. Movie titles, are written to be as interesting and inviting as possible.

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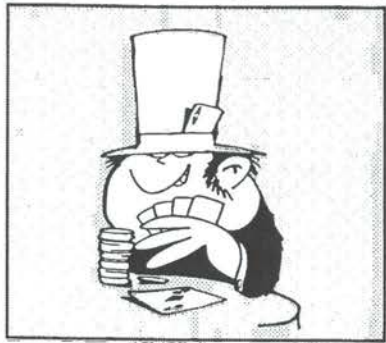
- Examine the movie ads in your newspaper. Select five movie titles. Write the actual titles in the chart below and then substitute synonyms for the main words in the title to create new titles.



Original Movie Titles

New Movie Titles

- Select one of the original movie titles from above. Instead of substituting the main words in the title with synonyms, substitute with antonyms. Write your new movie title below. Ask classmates if they can identify the original movie title.



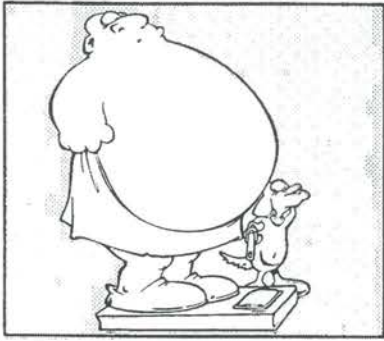
Identifying Main Ideas In Comics # 44

Newspaper comic strips are an important source of daily entertainment for readers of the newspaper. The main ideas and events in comic strips often reflect those events or situations in real life with which the reader can relate. The creators of comic strips attempt to communicate one main idea to the reader.

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- Select any five comic strips and write in one sentence the main idea that the comic strip creator was trying to convey. Clip the comic strips you chose and attach them to this activity sheet.

Date	Comic Strip Title	Main Idea Of Strip



Distinguishing Between Real/Unreal # 45

One of the reasons that comic strips are so popular with readers of all ages is that the comics reflect action or events that may happen in real life. Although many events are very unrealistic, we can identify very closely with many comic strip events.

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- Read the comic strips in your newspaper for several days. Identify five events or actions that could happen in real life. Describe the events in the spaces below.
- In addition, identify at least three events or actions that could not happen in real life. Describe them below.

Could Happen in Real Life...

Could Not Happen In Real Life...






Profiling Roles Of Characters

46

People play different roles in their lives every day. In a given day, a person may play the role of a son or daughter, student, coach, soccer player, lawn mower or housekeeper. To help us understand the different roles we play in our lives, we can examine some of the roles played by comic strip characters.

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- Examine the comic strips in your newspaper.
- Select two comic strip characters to profile. Complete the information for each character in the charts below.



Name of Comic Character

Roles Played by Character

What were the clues to this comic character's roles?



Name of Comic Character

Roles Played by Character

What were the clues to this comic character's roles?

- List some of the different roles you play in your own daily life.



Developing Hypotheses

47

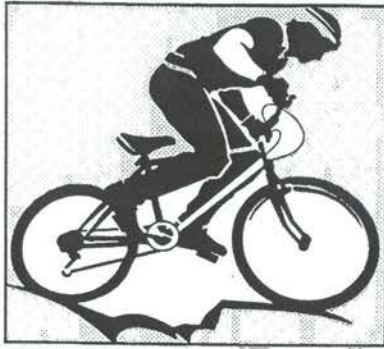
Hypotheses are educated guesses used to explain certain facts or provide a basis for further investigation. We can, for example, hypothesize about what our lives are like by what is included in the newspaper. The comic strips, however, may or may not be accurate reflections of what life is like on earth.

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- Assume that you are a part of a space exploration team from a distant planet. Your mission is to report back to your superiors about life on earth. You have landed on an isolated desert in the Southwest. Unfortunately, your spaceship developed problems immediately upon landing—forcing you to return to your planet. The only source of information you were able to find about life on earth was a copy of the comic strips.
- Using the comics in your newspaper as your sole source of information, write at least 10 hypotheses about life on earth that aliens might form from reading the comics. List the hypotheses in the space below.

TEN HYPOTHESES ABOUT LIFE ON EARTH





Writing Feature Stories

#48

When readers think of the content of newspapers, news stories will likely be the first thing that comes to mind. Newspapers, however include other articles that contain interesting, informative, entertaining or important topics. These articles are known as feature stories.

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- Look in your newspaper for feature stories. These stories may address a wide range of subjects, e.g., human interest, famous people and places, travel, holidays, history and contemporary life. Unlike news stories, feature stories tend to use informal or descriptive language, may include opinions and are generally written in an essay style.

- Think of several subjects that you believe would make interesting feature stories. List these ideas below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- Select one subject for a feature story. Write a brief feature in the space below. If necessary, you may also use the back of this page to complete your story.



Finding News Tags

49

Many feature stories can be published about any time because their content does not have a time element factor. Other feature stories are based upon a current issue or event. Those feature stories have what is known as a *news tag*, or a connection to a current news story.

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- Read through your newspaper's news stories. Locate two stories that you think are most interesting.
- Think of two feature stories ideas for each news story. These ideas should connect to the news stories in some way. (For example: A news story may describe an evacuation of refugees from a foreign country. A possible news tag for a feature story, might be a story about a local citizen whose brother is one of the refugees being evacuated.)
- List your possible feature stories and some information you would include in the features in the spaces below.



News Story #1:

Feature Idea 1:

Feature Idea 2:



News Story #2:

Feature Idea 1:

Feature Idea 2:



Advising Those With Problems # 50

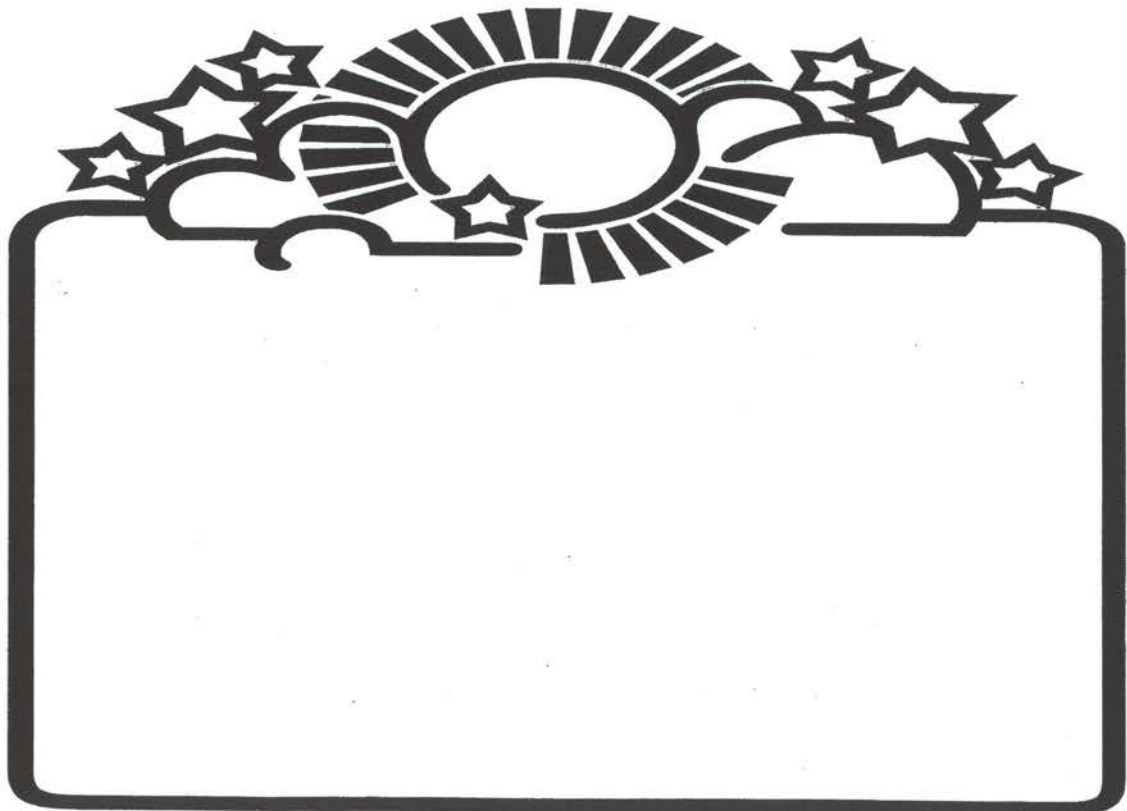
Personal and consumer advice columns are popular features of many newspapers. The columnists respond to questions or comments of a personal or consumer nature sent in by readers. Advice columns are another method that newspapers use to provide information and service to readers.

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- Read the advice columns in your newspaper for a week. Note the types of personal and consumer problems that are discussed. List the problems below.

Different Problems Found in Advice Columns

- Do you think the problems you noted above are typical of those most people face?
- Select from the above problems addressed, one response with which you disagree. Write, in the space below, your own response to the reader's question.





Identifying Sports Jargon

51

The sports pages are well known for the use of colorful expressions and language. Different phrases, euphemisms, idioms and cliches are an important part of the everyday language of sports competition. Knowing the jargon of sports adds to the enjoyment of reading the sports section.

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- Read one or more sports sections from your newspaper. Circle any expressions or phrases that could be considered the language or jargon of sports. Write your examples in the space below.

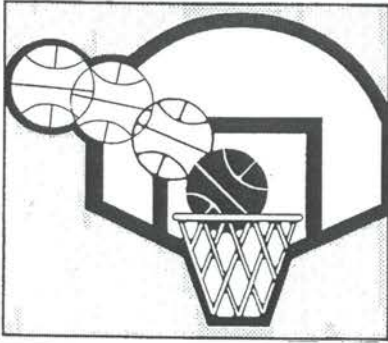
Examples Of The Jargon of Sports



- Think of some sports expressions or phrases with which you are familiar, but were not included in the sports stories you read. List these expressions or phrases below.

Examples Of The Jargon of Sports Not Found In The Newspaper





Finding Examples Of Bias

52

Like all news reporting, sports reporting should be fair, accurate and unbiased. However, given the loyalty that people have toward their sports teams and the emotions that are often displayed, it is difficult for writers to remain totally objective about the home team.

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- Read the sports section in at least two issues of your newspaper.
- Locate as many examples as you can of opinions that are expressed in sports news stories and/or sports columns and editorials. Note, in addition, any examples of bias or comments that appear to be favorable or unfavorable about a person or team. List your examples in the space below.

Examples of Opinion

Examples of Bias



Substituting Synonyms In Sports # 53

Sports stories are written in colorful, expressive language. Sports writers use lively words to capture the special emotions and to picture the action of sporting events. Different adjectives increase a reader's enjoyment in reading the sports section of the newspaper.

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- Read the sports stories in one issue of your newspaper. Circle the adjectives that the writers have used to make the stories as lively and interesting as possible.
- Select 7 of the adjectives from the sports stories. For each adjective, identify two synonyms that the sports writer could have used. Your synonyms should be as appropriate as the actual adjectives that were used in the stories.

SPORTS ADJECTIVES

Adjectives

Synonym Substitutes

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____





Creating Picture Captions

54

Pictures are used throughout most newspapers to illustrate important news and sports events. Newspaper photos add interest to many stories and provide information at the same time. Some photos, known as wild photos, do not accompany a story; these photos may only provide information through the caption, or cutline.

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- Select a picture from your newspaper. Paste it below or on the back of this activity sheet.
- Write four different sentences (declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative) about the picture. Assume that any one of the sentences could be used as a caption for the picture.

Paste picture here.

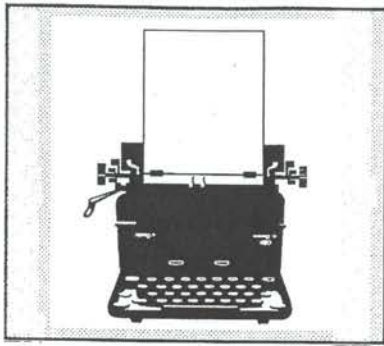
Sentence/Caption

Declarative

Interrogative

Exclamation

Command



Writing Effective Lead Sentences # 55

Well written news stories have lead sentences which attract the interest of the reader and provide the major factual information necessary to understand a news event. These lead sentences or paragraphs are an essential element of the inverted pyramid style of writing.

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- Cut a picture or photograph from your newspaper and attach it to this activity page.
- Imagine a story you could write about the picture or photo. In the space below, write three different sentences you could use to begin your story.

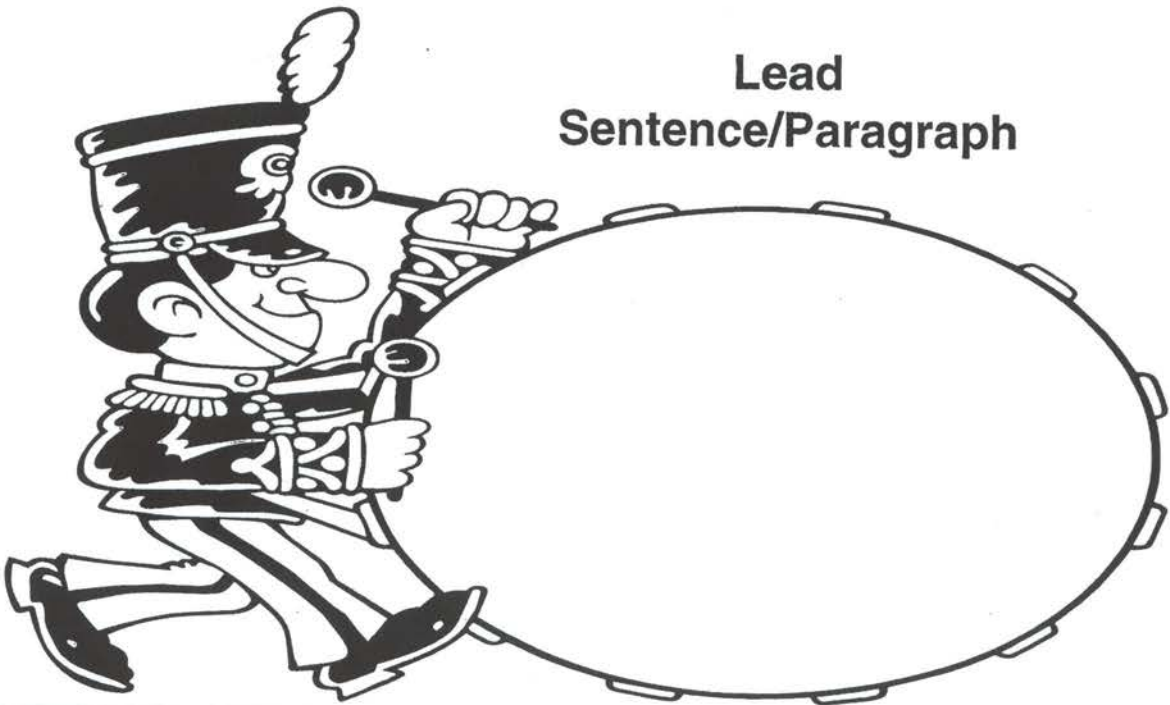
1.

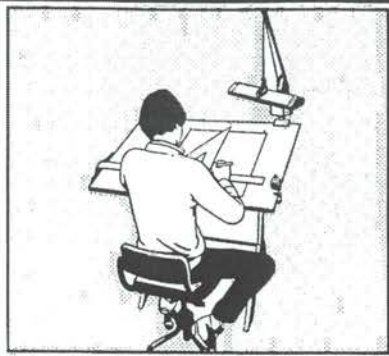
2.

3.

- Select one of your sentences and use it as part of the lead paragraph to a story. Write the paragraph in the space below.

**Lead
Sentence/Paragraph**





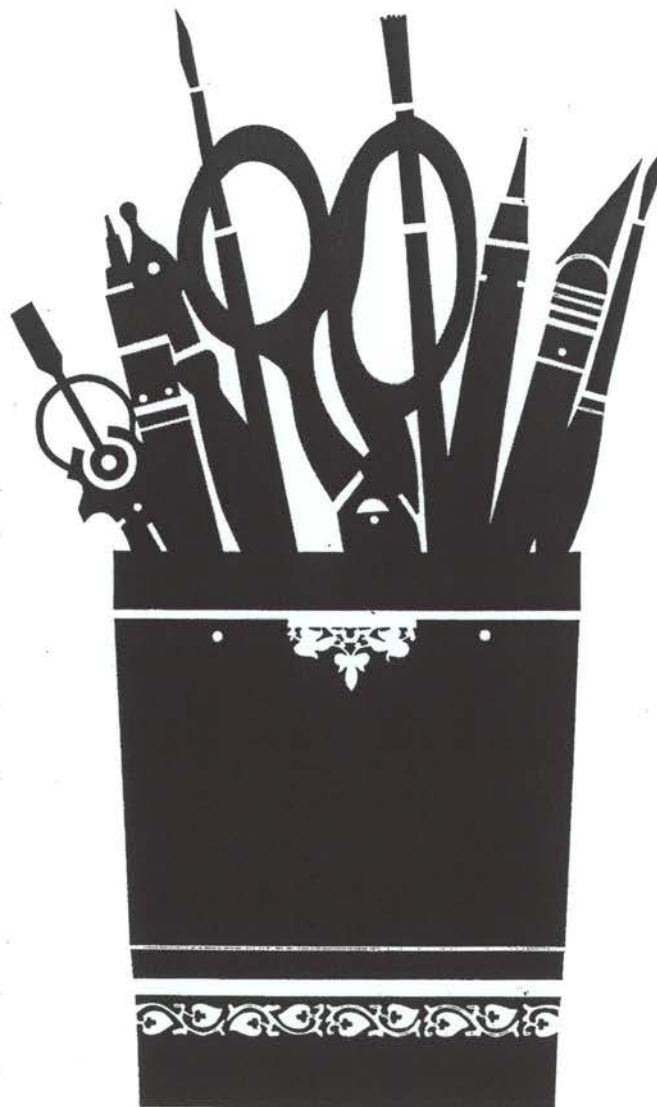
Creating Photo Stories

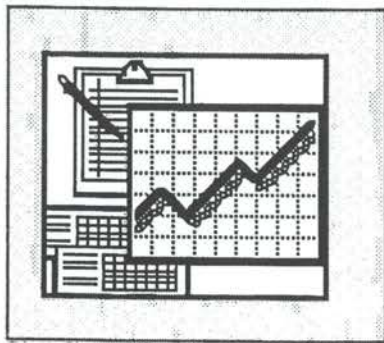
56

Photos and other illustrations are extremely important to the overall effect of newspapers. Stories are more interesting and meaningful to us if they are accompanied by a picture. An entire story can be created by linking a series of photos.

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- Examine the photos in several issues of your newspaper. Clip any five photos that you find interesting. The photos should not be on the same subject. Avoid, if possible, photos of famous persons.
- By using your imagination, write a short story using the five photos. Arrange the photos in any order and write at least two sentences for each photo used in your story. Write a headline for your story. Use a separate sheet of paper to weave your photo story.





Reading Charts And Graphs

57

An important element of many newspapers, charts and graphs help to picture information so that readers can quickly get information at a glance. New technology has helped newspapers receive and reprint graphs and charts for reader access and information.

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- Skim your newspaper to identify the graphs, charts and maps that are intended to provide information through graphic illustration.
- Clip one graph, chart or map that you find in your newspaper. Paste the item in the space below.
- In the space provided, identify the title or heading of the item and the source of the graphic you selected. On the back of this sheet of paper, write a paragraph that would have to be written in order to replace the graphic. Which do you think presents the information best, the graphic or the paragraph that you wrote? Explain why.
- Discuss with your class why graphic illustrations are used more frequently in newspapers today, compared with newspapers 20 or 30 years ago.

Paste Chart, Map,
or Graph Here.

Heading/Title:

Source:

Short Takes 1

58 Create A Story...

Create nonsense stories by selecting from different news stories each of the five W's and H. Write a lead, using the "who" from one story, the "what" from another story, the "where" from another and so on. Complete the story and prepare to present your *nonsense news* to your class.



62 Partner Puzzles...

Select a partner for this activity. Each partner should find an interesting story in the newspaper. Each partner should read his/her selected story. Then clip the story into paragraphs and exchange the stories between partners. Challenge your partner to put the news story into the original order.



59 Literally Speaking...

Draw a cartoon to show the literal interpretation of one example of a figure of speech in the newspaper. Mount the finished cartoon on colored construction paper and entitle the cartoon with the figure of speech taken from the newspaper.



63 Caption Cut-Ups...

Select several newspaper photos with captions (cutlines). Clip the photos and captions. Mix them up and place them in a folder. Swap folders with a classmate and try to match photos with the correct caption.



60 Sequence Surprise...

Select an interesting photograph from the newspaper and write a story about it. Make your story complete by describing the incidents that led up to the action in the photo. Then add a creative twist to the story by adding a surprise turn of events that occurred after the photo was taken.



64 Headline Hodge-Podge...

Find two headlines that could be changed completely in meaning with the simple addition or change in a prefix. Write the original headline on a sheet of paper. Below the headline, write the new headline and describe how the meaning of the original headline has changed.



61 Comics Predictions...

Read a comic strip which tells a continuing story for several days. Write a prediction for how the story will end. Save your prediction to compare it with the actual conclusion. Though your ending may be quite different, it still might be the better conclusion!



65 Birthday Budget...

Select a birthday gift for each member of your family, using the classified and retail advertising section of your newspaper. Plan your budget based on \$10 per family member. Select each item, clip and paste, along with the cost on a separate sheet of paper.



Short Takes 2

66 Current Events Quiz...

This is your chance to make up a quiz for your classmates! Using a current issue of your newspaper, develop a brief, 10-question quiz to give your classmates. The answers to the quiz should be easily found by skimming the newspaper.



70 Comic Character Search...

Pretend that one of the characters in a comic strip must be replaced. Write a classified ad to fill the position. Be sure your advertisement includes specific personality and physical traits required to fill this position.



67 Newspaper Careers...

Using the newspaper as a springboard for ideas, prepare a list of jobs that are required to produce a newspaper. When you have completed your list, select one job that you think you might like to do, the special skills, talents and education you might need to do the job successfully.



71 Weather Guide...

Using the weather forecasts from your newspaper, write a public service column of advice on appropriate dress, travel precautions, etc. for the next three days in your community. Include any advice for safety if the weather forecast is of a threatening nature.



68 Advertising Your Skills...

Study the advertising in your newspaper, looking especially for words frequently used to sell a product or a service. Develop an ad about yourself in which you present the very best image of your personality, skills, experience and education. Include illustrations or pictures in your ad.



72 A Volunteer Effort...

The newspaper is a good place to discover the needs of people in your local community. Skim through the pages of your newspaper, looking for reports about community needs and people who are fulfilling those needs. Identify ways in which you or members of your family could volunteer in your community.



69 Word Search...

The newspaper is an excellent place to find the different parts of speech in action. Make a list of the different parts of speech. Under each category, find at least 5 examples of the part of speech. As an additional challenge, can you identify the sentence function of each noun found?



73 Survey of Reading Habits...

For one week, keep track of what you read in each newspaper edition. Briefly note the articles, comic strips, ads, etc. that you read. At the end of the week, prepare a report of your newspaper reading habits, the types of items you always read, those that you sometimes read, etc.

