



## Activity Guide

Activities are based on the 2016 Newspaper in Education publication *Breast Cancer: Understanding your risk* created by the Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education program in partnership with the American Society of Breast Surgeons Foundation

# Newspaper & Critical Thinking Activities

The Florida Department of Education defines that the Florida Standards provide a robust set of goals for every grade. Emphasizing analytical thinking rather than rote memorization, the Florida Standards will prepare our students for success in college, career and life. The Florida Standards will reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers.

Building on the foundation of success that has made Florida a national model, the Florida Standards provide a clear set of goals for every student, parent, and teacher. For more information on Florida Standards, go to the CPALMS website. CPALMS is the State of Florida's official source for standards information and course descriptions: [cpalms.org](http://cpalms.org).

This activity guide is a complement to the *Breast Cancer: Understanding your risk* Tampa Bay Times NIE curriculum publication. Reading the four-page publication and completing the activities in this guide adhere to the following Florida Standards for high school students.

**Health:** HE.912.B.3.1; HE.912.B.3.2; HE.912.B.3.3; HE.912.B.3.4; HE.912.B.4.1; HE.912.B.4.2; HE.912.B.4.4; HE.912.B.5.1; HE.912.B.5.2; HE.912.B.5.3; HE.912.B.5.4; HE.912.B.5.5; HE.912.B.6.1; HE.912.B.6.2; HE.912.B.6.3; HE.912.B.6.4; HE.912.C.1.1; HE.912.C.1.2; HE.912.C.1.3; HE.912.C.1.4; HE.912.C.1.5; HE.912.C.1.6; HE.912.C.1.7; HE.912.C.1.8; HE.912.C.2.1; HE.912.C.2.2; HE.912.C.2.3; HE.912.C.2.4; HE.912.C.2.5; HE.912.C.2.6; HE.912.C.2.7; HE.912.C.2.8; HE.912.C.2.9; HE.912.P.7.1; HE.912.P.7.2; HE.912.P.8.1; HE.912.P.8.2; HE.912.P.8.3; HE.912.P.8.4

**Language Arts:** LAFS.9-12.L.1.1; LAFS.9-12.L.1.2; LAFS.9-12.L.2.3; LAFS.9-12.L.3.4; LAFS.9-12.L.3.5; LAFS.9-12.L.3.6; LAFS.9-12.RI.1.1; LAFS.9-12.RI.1.2; LAFS.9-12.RI.1.3; LAFS.9-12.RI.2.4; LAFS.9-12.RI.2.5; LAFS.9-12.RI.2.6; LAFS.9-12.RI.3.7; LAFS.9-12.RST.1.2; LAFS.9-12.RST.1.3; LAFS.9-12.RST.2.4; LAFS.9-12.RST.2.5; LAFS.9-12.RST.2.6; LAFS.9-12.RST.3.7; LAFS.9-12.RST.3.8; LAFS.9-12.RST.3.9; LAFS.9-12.SL.1.1; LAFS.9-12.SL.1.2; LAFS.9-12.SL.1.3; LAFS.9-12.SL.2.4; LAFS.9-12.SL.2.5; LAFS.9-12.SL.2.6; LAFS.9-12.W.1.1; LAFS.9-12.W.1.2; LAFS.9-12.W.1.3; LAFS.9-12.W.2.4; LAFS.9-12.W.2.5; LAFS.9-12.W.2.6; LAFS.9-12.W.3.7; LAFS.9-12.W.3.8; LAFS.9-12.W.3.9; LAFS.9-12.W.4.10; LAFS.9-12.WHST.1.1; LAFS.9-12.WHST.1.2; LAFS.9-12.WHST.2.4; LAFS.9-12.WHST.2.5; LAFS.9-12.WHST.2.6; LAFS.9-12.WHST.3.7; LAFS.9-12.WHST.3.8; LAFS.9-12.WHST.3.9; LAFS.9-12.WHST.4.10

This activity guide was created by Jodi Pushkin, Manager, Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education

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## Read like a detective. Write like a reporter.

**Essential Question:** *What is breast cancer and why is this knowledge important?*

### Text Dependent Questions:

- Using the definition and information from the text, define the risks of breast cancer in your own words.
- Based on the examples in the text, explain why knowing the risks is important to your health.

### Reporting

- Choose one of the topics from the informational text and find three additional sources to answer the essential question. Use the *Tampa Bay Times* as one of your sources.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation that includes at least one of the following: chart, newspaper article, image or video clip.

**Essential Question:** Can genetics affect your health?

### Text Dependent Questions:

- What are BRCA-1 and BRCA-2?
- What should a person do if she or he has a history of breast cancer in her or his family?

### Reporting

- Using the information in the text, reliable resources noted in the NIE publication and newspaper articles, write an essay or to respond to the idea that genetics can influence health.

**Essential Question:** Why is getting screened for breast cancer important?

### Text Dependent Questions:

- Who should be screened for breast cancer?
- How can a person get screened for breast cancer?

### Reporting

- Using the information in the text, video and newspaper articles, write an essay or blog post to answer this question: What reasons or challenges would a person have getting screened for breast cancer?

### Creating arguments

Cancer is a serious illness. While screening for cancer is important, being aware of the risks is just as important.

- Research one type of cancer. Create an argument focused on risk prevention of based on the research you find.
- With a partner or in a small group, read about the topic, record relevant evidence. Conduct research using reliable sources, such as the *Tampa Bay Times*, the American Society of Breast Surgeons Foundation and the other resources listed in the publication. Students can prepare their argument by using an interactive persuasion map: [http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion\\_map](http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/persuasion_map).

## Going Beyond the Text

Whether you are reading a traditional book, digital book or newspaper or newspaper educational publication, you can learn a lot and have a great deal of fun. Between the covers of newspapers are action, adventure, comedy and new worlds for you to explore and learn about.

Reading the *Tampa Bay Times* every day can help you learn about the world around you and about yourself.

For every article and book you read, keep a chart of the who, what, where, when, why and how components. By keeping a reading log or journal of what you read, you can remember important parts, information, characters and then share those with your fellow students, friends, family members and teachers.

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### Journaling to Self-discovery

Knowing who you are is the first step in being healthy and mature and taking charge of your life. Keeping a journal is a great way to learn more about yourself, write down questions and explore new concepts and ideas. Who are you? Why do you do what you do? Do you have strong convictions? Are you able to stand up to others when your ideas are questioned? While you are keeping your journal, read the *Tampa Bay Times* to test yourself. What are your thoughts about the things you read in the news? To begin your journal, write about something that you have read in the *Times* that directly affects your life. Share some of your journal entries and thoughts with your peers and family.

### Learning New Words

Did you know that the best way to expand your vocabulary is by reading? When you read and learn about new things, you often come up against some tough vocabulary words. Most vocabulary words are learned from context clues (the other words in the sentence or paragraph). Sometimes you need to look up the meaning of the words in a dictionary. If you don't know what a word means, look it up or ask for help. While you read your books or the newspaper, be sure to highlight or circle words you don't know. Try to figure out the words' meanings by looking for clues in the sentences around them. Write down your best guess, and then look the words up in a dictionary. Make a list of these words. Next, use these words to create a news scavenger hunt. See if you and your friends can find these words in the *Tampa Bay Times*.

### Analyzing information critically

It is time to use your critical thinking skills. After all, that is a main focus of learning about yourself and what makes you a strong and healthy individual. Using the electronic edition of the *Tampa Bay Times*, review the articles and ads for a one-week time period. Save all articles that focus on health. Write down the main points for each article. Be sure to comment on whether the article is focusing on positive or negative choices. Choose one of the points represented in one of the articles to write an argument paper. You can focus your argument on and any aspect of the article. After your paper is written, create an oral presentation for your class. Explain whether the information you found is positive, negative, helpful or harmful. Be sure to use specific examples from the article and your research in your paper and presentation.

### Monitoring the *Times*

How to provide healthcare insurance in America is an ongoing issue. It is a hot topic in the upcoming election. The Health Insurance Marketplace website is the main source of information for the Affordable Care Act. In the coming weeks, monitor all health-related news in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Keep a journal or write a blog for this issue. In your journal, record your general thoughts, your thoughts about articles you read in the *Times* and your family's experiences.

### Thinking critically

Find news or commentary about preventive health care in the United States. Is the information clear and balanced? Is the Affordable Care Act, in its current state, convenient for people of all socioeconomic groups, genders and ages? Write down your thoughts about these topics. Discuss these concepts with the other students in your class. Create an editorial cartoon that reflects your views about the Affordable Care Act, mandated insurance, insurance marketplace or the state of health insurance in the United States.

### Public awareness

Prevention health services are very important, especially for children and the elderly. This past fall, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started a "Keep 'Em Home!" campaign urging parents not to send sniffing, coughing pupils to school. Check out the CDC website, [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov), to see videos and read prevention tips. The *Tampa Bay Times* also is a great resource for being aware of the state of health in our community. Look for flu-prevention tips, information links and other resources in the *Times*. Try to find coverage of preparations by businesses, government agencies, child care providers and others who could be affected by the spread of disease. Have your students make a list of possible threats and prevention strategies. Have students create a public awareness campaign that can be shared at school and or their parents' place of work.

## Taking control

How much does advertising influence your decisions? Think back to the decisions you've made in the past year. Were any of them influenced by advertisements in the newspaper or magazines, or on radio or television? Discuss your thoughts with the class. Next, talk about the techniques advertisers use to attract your attention. For example, many ads use the bandwagon approach – convincing you to join the crowd. Some ads use a famous person to make a pitch. This is called a testimonial. Others use images to associate a product with certain people, places and activities. Now, work in small groups to design a breast cancer awareness ad using one or more of these techniques. You can learn more about advertising techniques here: [tbtim.es/13qs](http://tbtim.es/13qs).

## Fact vs. opinion

Knowing the difference between fact and fiction is very important, especially when it comes to your health. Oftentimes people of all ages are influenced by propaganda or false information. People are bombarded by images in the media, ads, commercials and infomercials that may be spreading false information. Look through the news sections of the electronic edition of the *Tampa Bay Times*. Select a few articles of interest and evaluate those articles for facts and opinions. Draw a line down the center of a piece of paper. Label one side Fact and the other Opinion. List statements in each category and discuss with your classmates and teacher why these statements fall into each category.

## Making good choices

Knowing how to live healthier is vital because chronic diseases, including heart disease, cancer and stroke, are the leading causes of death. The good news is that most of the risk factors associated with these diseases, such as tobacco use, alcohol intake, poor nutrition and physical inactivity, may be controlled with changes in behaviors. Good nutrition and regular physical activity are the twin defenses against obesity and its health risks, including heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers and stroke. Using the *Tampa Bay Times* and the Internet as sources, research health or policy issues related to unhealthy lifestyles. What is the government's approach for shaping up American citizens? What strategies are fast food chains, restaurants and grocery stores using to attract customers who are more health conscious? Compile the information you find into a report to share with your class and family.

## Medical jargon

"Jargon" is defined as "special words or expressions that are used by a particular profession or group and are difficult for others to understand." For example, the field of medicine is full of jargon. This can be challenging for the average person. Make a list of all of the genre jargon you find in the breast health publication and during your research. Also, see if any of these words make an appearance in the articles in the *Tampa Bay Times*. How can you reword the information to make it easier for the average person to understand?