

Rachel Kingdom
Central High School, Hernando County
2025 Runner-Up

Rachel teaches environmental science and forensic science at Central High School in Hernando County.

Rachel was chosen as a 2025 Runner-Up for integrating the Tampa Bay Times and NIE publications into her environmental science and forensic science classes in innovative ways.

For example, environmental science students used NIE publications about water to create posters about freshwater ecosystem diversity and water quality. The posters were then put up by water fountains around the school for students, staff and visitors to learn from.

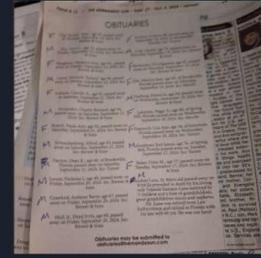
For an assignment on human population ecology, students mined data from obituaries to draw conclusions based on age, sex and longevity.

Her students use the Times throughout the year as a primary source for inquiry-based activities on topics including water conservation, sustainable practices, crime-scene investigations, court cases, fingerprint identification, ballistics, DNA fingerprinting and more.

Rachel was also chosen as a Runner-Up in 2023 and 2022.

NIE was used for this assignment (along with another newspaper). Students had to work up data in order to draw conclusions based on age, sex, and longevity.

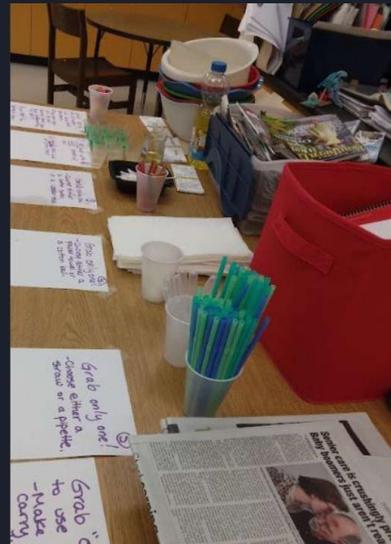
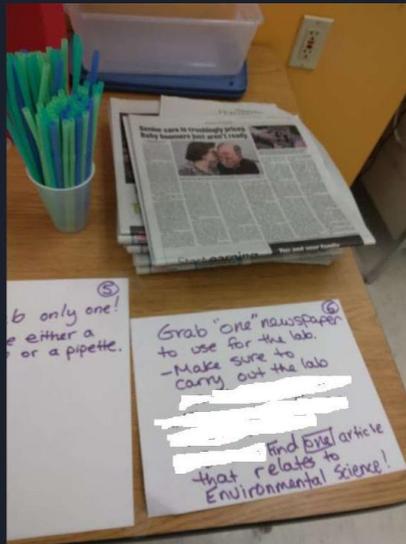
Date	Age	Sex
9/27-10/3	(40-84)	12
11/6-24	(48-93)	21
11/22-11/28/2014	(52-96)	12



Longevity Assignment-Chapter 8
"Humans and the Environment"



Date	Age of Death	
	Males	Females
Day 1 9/27-10/3 Hernando Sun	12 (40-84)	10 (54-92)
Day 2 11/6-24 Tampa Bay Times	21 (48-93)	11 (54-95)
Day 3 11/22-11/28/2014 Hernando Sun	12 (52-96)	9 (56-100)
Day 4		



The newspaper was used several ways for this lab. The students had to locate an article related to water quality, while also using the ads to keep their areas clean. They had to present the article to their peers and do a Think-Pair-Share. They talked about "eutrophication," (phosphates, nitrates, pH, turbidity, refractive index, and potash), as well as how we can clean up our environment. (Instrumentation was purchased through the Southwest Florida Water Management SPLASH grant..)