

Michele Hilliker
Dorothy C. York Innovation Academy, Hillsborough County
2024 Runner-Up

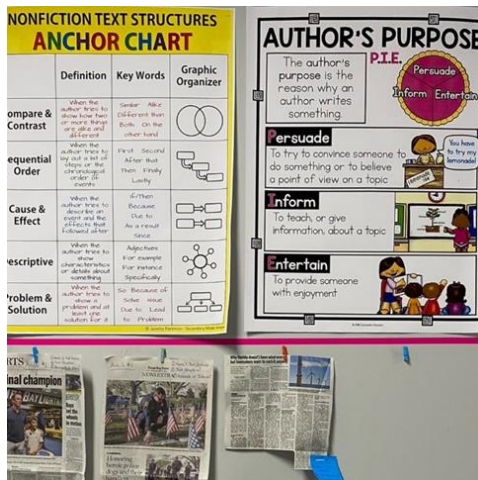
“The newspaper and NIE resources have elevated the learning environment of my classroom in many ways. That is way more than I knew I would get when I signed up! Not only are my students excited to practice reading strategies, but they also learn some really cool things about their surrounding communities. It’s so awesome to watch them make personal connections or become passionate about ideas presented in the articles.”

Michele teaches third grade at Dorothy C. York Innovation Academy in Hillsborough County.

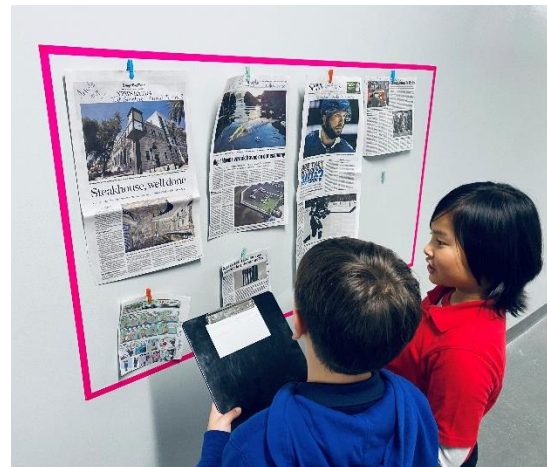
Michele was chosen as a 2024 Runner-Up for using the newspaper to support multiple third grade standards and grow her students in the areas of reading, writing, science and social studies.

For example, Michele uses the Times to help her students learn about text features that support informational texts, such as photographs, captions, graphs, charts, timelines, headings and maps – which the newspaper is full of. She has her students conduct text feature hunts in the Times. When they find them, they cut them out and add them to their Reading Notebooks to refer back to throughout the year.

She also uses the Times for an interactive weekly activity to teach text structures such as chronological order, cause and effect, compare and contrast, description, and problem and solution.



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Another way that Michele enhances her students’ learning with the Times is to teach students to identify the author's purpose. Michele writes, “This one is exciting because students are like little reading detectives trying to determine if the author is trying to persuade, inform, or entertain!” After students decide on the writing mode of the article's

author, they then have to back up their thinking with text evidence to prove to one another why they selected that mode.

Finally, Michele has found the Times to be a valuable resource for social studies topics including the introduction of rights of citizens, good citizenship, influential African Americans in history, the Civil Rights Movement and Presidents Day.