

Olivia Boggs
Bayshore High School, Manatee County
2024 Runner-Up

“Too many times, students feel “stuck” or as though their opinions don't matter. Part of my philosophy as an educator is to foster equality and creativity in my classroom. While we do structured, state-mandated assignments, I also allow this monthly essay to be a time when students can make their own decisions while using a wide variety of material from the Tampa Bay Times. We all look forward to the end of each month when it's time to research!”

Olivia teaches English at Bayshore High School in Manatee County.

Olivia was chosen as a 2024 Runner-Up for using the Tampa Bay Times to foster inquiry and allow students to take control of their learning.

Olivia uses the Tampa Bay Times for a two-to-three-day assignment called “Input/Output” each month.

Students read the Times, choose an article that interests them, and jot down five facts that they find interesting. They then conduct further research on their chosen topic. Finally, they use this information to write an essay.

Olivia writes: “The newspaper is valuable to my AICE General Paper class specifically, because this class uses events around the world to communicate in writing. We are constantly studying different topics - from technology, to the economy, to literature and historical events. What better way to keep my students in tune with the realities of life and writing than with the Tampa Bay Times!”

This assignment not only lets students stay up-to-date with current events, but it also allows them to access information from sources other than social media.

Most importantly, it gives them the chance to take control of their learning. Although they start with a set rubric, but they have the freedom to make a decision on where to start for their monthly essay.

News Watch/Read: Info (Input) and Elaboration (Output)

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Title: _____

INPUT (Facts and information covered in the article/video): _____

OUTPUT (Your analysis, response, and elaboration on the information): _____

USE FORMAL LANGUAGE! MOVE TO THE BACK OF THE PAPER TO CONTINUE WRITING 😊

Points Allotted: 20 points. Remember, you are not just rephrasing or summarizing the news article, but you are giving it thought and input from what you already know about the subject. Relate the news story to what you know and apply that knowledge to predict an outcome. Formal language is required. Do not write like you are texting.