

Lesson 2: Understanding the Newspaper

Newspaper Focus: Identifiable Sections (local news; arts; sports; editorial; etc.).

Background — Your students will be somewhat familiar with the newspaper even if they have not studied it in class or if they don't read it on a regular basis. They may have a limited understanding of headlines and news stories, but they may be unaware of the depth and breadth of information available to readers in each day's newspaper. The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize students with the newspaper in preparation for the other lessons that follow. This activity has two parts. In the first, students will go on a scavenger hunt to find specific newspaper elements. In the second part of the activity, students will analyze elements they find in one section of the newspaper. They then will share their findings with the class.

5-8 English Standards

A. PROCESS OF READING

2. Reflect on what has been discovered and learned while reading, and formulate additional questions.
8. Read for a wide variety of purposes (e.g., to gain knowledge, to aid in making decisions, to receive instructions, to follow an argument, to enjoy).
9. Explain orally and defend opinions formed while reading and viewing.
10. Adjust viewing and listening strategies in order to comprehend materials viewed and heard.

B. LITERATURE AND CULTURE

10. Demonstrate an understanding of the defining features and structure of literary texts encountered at this level.

D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

4. Identify different ways in which informational texts are organized.
6. Describe new knowledge presented in informational texts and how it can be used.
7. Identify common technical terms used in informational texts.
8. Use the various parts of a text (index, table of contents, glossary) to locate specific information.

9-12 English Standards

A. PROCESS OF READING

8. Find the meaning of relatively uncommon technical terms used in informational texts.

B. LITERATURE AND CULTURE

9. Demonstrate an understanding of the defining features and structure of literary texts encountered at this level.

D. INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

1. Scan a passage to determine whether a text contains relevant information.
2. Distinguish between apparent fact and opinion in nonfiction texts.
3. Use discussions with peers as a way of understanding information.
6. Explain how new information from a text changes personal knowledge.

H. RESEARCH-RELATED WRITING AND SPEAKING

1. Develop an appropriate strategy for finding information on a particular topic.
7. Identify and use a variety of news sources (e.g., newspapers, magazines, broadcast and recorded media, artifacts), informants, and other likely sources for research purposes.