

# Grades 9-12 Student Activities for Using the Newspaper

## Features

- Take one day of the TV listings and divide all the shows into categories such as religious, educational, humorous, sports or informative. Calculate the fractional part of the total TV schedule occupied by each type show. Construct a circle graph to illustrate.
- Find a recipe in the newspaper. Convert the English measures to metric units.
- Choose three people (a political figure, an entertainer and/or a sports celebrity) and draw a comic strip or panel featuring all three. Tell what physical features you would emphasize and why. Write a dialogue for their strip or panel.
- Look in the weekend TV listings. Total the amount of TV coverage for all sports and then for individual sports.

## Sports

- Select a professional or collegiate sports team to follow for four weeks. Mark on a map of the United States the locations of each game and in which direction the team travels that week. Which geographical features does the team pass over if flying? Mark the team's journey in a colored marker.
- Make a chart of each city in which the team stops. List the city, state and the capital of that state on the chart. When the project is complete, create a legend and determine how many miles have been traveled by each team.
- Watch a televised sports event you know will be covered in the newspaper. Write down your

reactions Then find the newspaper write-up of the event the next day. Review the headline and main idea of the sports story. Does the point of view of the article agree with your reaction?

- Look for different sports-related jobs highlighted on the sports page. What other types of jobs are available in the sports industry? Find articles or mentions of that type job in stories on the sports page.

## Editorial/Opinion

- Editorials are generally of the following types: informative, explanatory, laudatory, humorous, interpretive and controversial. Find different editorials and list them by type.
- Study editorial cartoons over a period of time. Write an analysis of one cartoon, including its major elements and message.
- Select an editorial, letter to the editor, column or editorial cartoon that expresses an opinion different from your own. Write an editorial or letter or draw an editorial cartoon expressing your opinion.
- Read the newspaper over a period of several days, paying particular attention to local news reporting. As a class brainstorm issues facing the community. Select the issue that most affects your class and write an editorial, letter to the editor or draw an editorial cartoon expressing your views.

## News

- Choose a news story and create the outline the reporter might have used to write it.
- Make a list of the reading audiences of the newspaper, such as youth, women, senior citizens, etc. Identify news stories in that day's newspaper that would appeal to each. Create a list of additional story ideas the newspaper could include for these audiences.

- Choose a feature story and rewrite it as a news story using the inverted-pyramid style (five W's and the H). Compare writing styles of the two stories.
- Read the front page of the newspaper and speculate whether the stock market will gain or lose based on world events. Check your predictions the next day and tell if you were right or wrong.

## Advertising

- Look through the classified section under the "employment" headings. What types of jobs are most plentiful? What skills are required? Find a job you would like. What are the qualifications?
- Look through the newspaper for advertisements that relate to different audiences (teens, middle-aged, etc.). How does the advertiser project a certain image to an audience?

