

Grades 3-5 Student Activities for Using the Newspaper

Features

- Working in pairs, interview each other and write a feature story.
- Clip out a comic-strip character that best describes you and write a paragraph telling why.
- Find the TV family in the newspaper listings that is most like yours. Circle the name of the show and tell why it resembles your family.

Sports

- Find a sports story with a photo. Make a list of all the nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs in the story.
- Race with your classmates to find as many synonyms as you can for the words “defeated” and “won” in the sports headlines.
- Look through the sports section and find an article about a successful athlete. Tell what is outstanding about this person.
- Choose a sports article that interests you. Underline the who, what, when, where, why and how of the article using a different color for each. Make a key to identify each color.
- Look in the sports section and find 10 athletes (use either photos or names) and identify each as professional or amateur. Then list the characteristics of a professional and amateur athlete.

News

- Categorize the stories in the news section as local, state, national or international news. Make a bar graph to show the number of

stories in each category. (Hint: Remember to check datelines.)

- Cut out a news story and paste it on a plain sheet of paper. Choose five colors of crayons, pencils or markers. Underline the who, what, when, where, why or how in different colors and make a key to show what each color represents.

- Find an interesting story, summarize the information and share it with the class.
- Skim the front section of the newspaper, reading the headlines, lead paragraphs and photo cutlines, etc., for five minutes. Make a list of everything you learned without looking at the newspaper. Share the information with your class.
- Cut out several newspaper photos with their cutlines. Separate the cutline from the picture. Put the cutlines in an envelope. Have a partner draw them out and match to the correct photo.

Editorial/Opinion

- Find the name of the editor and the page number of the editorial page.
- Choose a photo from the newspaper that creates strong emotions (happy, sad, angry) and write a letter to the editor expressing them.

- Collect editorial cartoons from the newspaper and categorize them by news events.

- Find the letters to the editor and explain the topic of the first letter.

- Collect editorial cartoons over a period of time. Select one that appeals to you and write a paragraph telling why it is a good cartoon.

- Your favorite comic strip is to be dropped from your newspaper. Write a letter to the editor about why you believe this is a bad idea.



Advertising

- Imagine your favorite toy and design an advertisement to sell it. What information would you use to describe the toy? What type of artwork would you use (a photograph, or drawing, bright colors, etc)?

- Classified Scavenger Hunt – Work in two teams with a copy of the newspaper’s classified section. Within a set time limit, find and circle as many of the following items for sale as possible (the first team to finish or to find the most number of objects is the winner): Piece of jewelry, article of clothing, pet, car, farm machinery, furniture, fish tank, set of encyclopedias, computer, house/apartment, land, microwave oven, tires and scuba gear.