



Rockin' Classroom E-newsletters & Newspapers

OVERVIEW

In this lesson students will learn about creating a classroom newspaper/newsletter to communicate happenings with their parents.

GRADE LEVELS

4-8

- . Edit newspaper articles
- . Use desktop publishing equipment and software
- . Layout and publish a classroom newspaper

TIME ALLOTMENT

Publish a copy once a month.

SUBJECT MATTER

This lesson includes instructional goals in English Language Arts and Reading.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The students will be able to:

- . Identify the parts of a newspaper
- . Identify the format of a news article
- . Write a newspaper story

STANDARDS

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)
(<http://www.state.tx.us/teks>)

§110.6. English Language Arts and Reading,
Grade 4.

§110.7. English Language Arts and Reading,
Grade 5.

(25) Viewing/representing/production. The student produces visual images, messages, and meanings that communicate with others. The student is expected to:

(B) produce communications using technology or appropriate media such as developing a class newspaper, multimedia reports, or video



reports (4-8).

§110.22. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 6. §110.23. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7.

§110.24. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8.

(24) Viewing/representing/production. The student produces visual images, messages, and meanings that communicate with others. The student is expected to:

(B) produce communications using technology or appropriate media such as developing a class newspaper, multimedia reports, or video reports (4-8); and

MEDIA COMPONENTS

WEBSITES

News Writing with Scholastic Editors
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/news/index.htm>

Step by step instructions on writing news stories.

Write it: Journalism
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/journalism/>

Step by Step process for students.

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Word or Publisher
Download free templates and find tips.

Word Templates
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT063455551033.aspx>

Publisher Templates
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT011359411033.aspx>

MATERIALS

You will need the following to complete these activities: computer(s) with Microsoft Word &/or Publisher. The following handouts:

PER GROUP

Copy of the local newspaper

PER STUDENT

[Inverted Pyramid Format](#)

[5W's & H](#)

[Reporting Tips](#)

[Newspaper Story Format](#)

[Story Feedback Form,](#)

[Newspaper Writing Assessment](#)

VOCABULARY

Inverted Pyramid

Lead

5W's & H

Cub Reporter

PREP FOR TEACHERS

Make an overhead of [Inverted Pyramid Format](#) and [Reporting Tips](#) sheet

Make student copies of [Inverted Pyramid Format](#), [5W's & H](#), [Reporting Tips](#), [Newspaper Story Format](#) sheet, [Story Feedback Form](#), [Reporter's Guide](#) handout, and [Newspaper Writing Assessment](#) sheet.

Sources:

http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/lesson_view.asp?id=249 &

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/tguide/planning.htm#3>



INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: SETTING THE STAGE

Handout a copy of your local newspaper and have students share what they notice about it. What things do they see in the newspaper? Discuss as a class, and then transfer the observations to creating a classroom newspaper. What things would carry over? What things would be covered?

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. News Writing with Scholastic Editors

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/news/index.htm>

Complete the activities from this site you feel are appropriate for you class.

2. Write It

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writeit/journalism/>

Complete the step by step activities for your classroom newspaper.

3. Digital Photography

See Appendix 1

4. Layout

Word Templates

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT063455551033.aspx>

Publisher Templates

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/CT011359411033.aspx>

Choose a template for your classroom newspaper or just create your own.

CULMINATING ACTIVITY

Putting it to Bed

Once the class has a basic understanding of what goes into a newspaper, brainstorm this month's classroom news stories, assign the stories, photos and layouts, conduct research and interviews, compose rough drafts, peer edit, rewrite, teacher edit, rewrite turn into layout designer for input along with photos/graphics. Peer edit the final copy and "put it to bed" (send it the press). In this case, convert to HTML for your class webpage, email an attachment to parents or run it on the copy machine and hand it out. Now Celebrate!! And plan for next month's issue.

RESOURCES

Getting the Most out of Teaching with Newspapers by Rebecca Olien

http://shop.scholastic.com/webapp/wcs/store/servlet/ProductDisplay?productId=14796&langId=-1&storeId=10001&catalogId=10004&sa_campaign=internal_ads/scholastic3_0/search

EXp3 Journalism: A Handbook for Journalists ©2000

Grades 6 - 8

<http://www.glencoe.com/catalog/index.php/program?c=1667&s=425&p=2287&t=1>

Texas Association of Journalism Educators PowerPoint Presentations

<http://www.taje.org/fortaje/ppt/index.html>

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