

Uses of Newspapers and Magazines

Jasztalville Encouraging Newspapers in Education

Three original ideas

These are three original ideas to encourage incorporating newspapers and magazines in the classroom. If you have seen any of these ideas before, then I am not aware of where they are from. The first two ideas are for writing and the third is for math.

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Writing Job Descriptions- Writing-

Using the newspaper, write down what you believe are the job descriptions for these jobs:

- Meteorologist (using the weather page of the newspaper)
- Reporter on the entertainment beat
- Reporter on the world news beat
- Reporter on the school sports beat
- Reporter on the national sports beat
- Photojournalist

Of course, your students are not limited to just describing these jobs. Perhaps have your students come up with some jobs on their own from what they read in the newspaper.

Sample Job Description:

A reporter desiring to write about world news should be willing to travel at any given time, face dangerous situations, interview individuals with conflicting interests and beliefs, and write articles that present all views as equal.

Extension:

Have students not mention which jobs they described. Have other students guess which job they are describing.

Auto Enthusiasts Unite!- Writing-

Have your students locate pictures of vehicles in the newspaper (or magazine) from the new/used car ads. Tell them to keep their choices private and get them approved through you first so no two students have the same exact vehicle. Have them give you the photos of the vehicles they chose so you can post them on a chart for the entire class to see. Assign a number to each vehicle.

Have your students write a description of the vehicles they chose. First, they should specify if their choice was a car, truck, or SUV. From there, they can specify how many doors are on the vehicle, the color, and other important attributes. In addition, teach them terms that pertain to automobiles to make their writing more dynamic than "I have a red car with four doors." (I make my fourth graders write approximately ten sentences.)

One thing that you can do to ensure their writing is dynamic is assign the vehicles and make sure that you have vehicles extremely similar to one another, such as two yellow Hummers.

Last, have your students sit around while one student reads his or her description. Have them guess which number vehicle each student is describing.

Space Allotment- Math-

Determine how much of a given page in a newspaper is dedicated to photos. Cut out the photos and place them on top of another (uncut) page.

-Immediately, you will know whether the page you chose had 50% or more photos if your photos cover up at least half the newspaper page.

-Fold the uncut newspaper page into fourths. Which percentage is $1/4^{\text{th}}$ of 100? Did your sample newspaper page have less or more than 25% dedicated to photos?

Now for a compare and contrast lesson- Have students go to different pages of the newspaper to determine the importance of pictures.