TOPIC: Reading/Writing

FOCUS OF ACTIVITIES: The skills for this activity focus on reading for information, understanding written material, organizing information in a variety of ways and writing for specific purposes.

INSTRUCTIONS: Students will need the front page from two newspapers for this activity. They may use the same newspaper from different days or two different newspapers for the same day. It is possible to use the Internet to access different newspapers.

ACTIVITIES:

1. A newspaper presents information differently from a radio or television broadcast. Examine the front pages of two or more newspapers. Complete the chart below.
   • Find the name of the newspaper. Where is it located?
   • Read the headlines. What topics are included on the front page?
   • How are these topics arranged on the front page? Where are the most and least important stories placed?
   • Look at the visual elements on the front page (colour, pictures, photographs, charts, size and type of print). How do the visual elements support the stories? How do the visual elements increase the appeal of the front page?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Placement</th>
<th>Front Page #1</th>
<th>Front Page #2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headlines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Story Arrangement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual Elements</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2. Use a Venn diagram to illustrate the similarities and differences between the front pages of the newspapers.

3. List the key features of a front page of a newspaper. Use the information from your Venn diagram.
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INSTRUCTIONS: Newspaper articles are usually short, factual reports about people, places and events. Select two newspaper articles from the front page of your newspaper.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Choose one news article to read.
   Before reading:
   • Scan the headline and predict the topic of the article.
   • Skim the opening paragraph or “lead” to note the type of information that is given.

2. Read the article in depth to summarize the article.
   • What are the main events in the article?
   • When did the events take place?
   • Where did the events take place?
   • Who are the people involved in the article?
   • Does the article answer the questions why and how?

3. Choose another news article. Follow the reading process above.

4. Look at the “inverted pyramid” on page 2. The most important facts are written at the beginning of a news article. Create an inverted pyramid to summarize each of your news articles.
INVERTED PYRAMID

HEADLINE

LEAD

IMPORTANT FACTS

IMPORTANT FACTS

FACTS

FACTS
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INSTRUCTIONS: You will be creating a newspaper front page on an important subject -- You!

ACTIVITIES:

1. First you need ideas for news to include on your front page.
   • Brainstorm a list of the major activities and events in your life. Think about events in the past and the present and your plans for the future.
   • Select 8-10 items that you think might be newsworthy.
   • List as many details and facts about each item as you can. You might talk to your family and friends to help you remember all the details.

2. Review your list. Select the most exciting and important events to include on your front page. Choose three or four events as topics for your articles.

3. Prepare point form notes to summarize and organize the content for your stories.

4. Use the inverted pyramid style and news article format to write three or four articles about the most important events in your life.

5. Revise and edit your writing.
   • Do you have an interesting lead?
   • Is there any information missing?
   • Are all the facts and details relevant to the information?
   • Does your headline catch the readers’ attention?
   • Have you used effective adjectives, verbs and adverbs?

6. Proofread your writing.
   • Check punctuation.
   • Check spelling.