

Newspaper Workshop

Activities & Variations

- 🍎 **Explain your name tag.** Students are asked to create name tags and cut out three or more words, phrases, graphics or photos that describe themselves. Students glue the cuttings to their name tags & then introduce themselves to the class by explaining why each cutting describes them. (**Variations:** Primary students may create a name collage gluing words and pictures cut from the newspaper around their names on a piece of construction paper. Students may also create a collage of their likes and dislikes by using words and photos from the newspaper.)
- 🍎 **Where am I?** Teacher reveals aloud three clues to a story in the daily newspaper. Students are assigned to find the article that fits the clues. (**Variation:** Primary teachers may give clues about a certain photo in the newspaper and have students find it.)
- 🍎 **Classified Bananas** After reading over the “lost & found” section in the newspaper, students are divided into groups. Each group receives a banana they, as groups, must describe in meticulous detail. The description should be so accurate that once each group reads its “Lost Banana” ad, their classmates will be able to select which banana they are describing. (**Variation:** Primary students can draw their bananas as detailed as they can, or the teacher may pass out a ready-made worksheet to help model the assignment for his/her students.)
- 🍎 **Jigsaw Newspaper** Students are divided into groups and a group leader is selected. The group leader distributes the newspaper in sections to each member of the group. Each group member selects an article in his section and determines the who, what, when, where, why and how of the article. Then each student must summarize his/her article and evaluate the story on relevance and bias. The teacher then collects the writings from each group and grades them. The group with the highest writing score wins a prize. (**Variation:** Primary teachers may distribute sections of the newspaper to groups of students and send them on a newspaper scavenger hunt. The teacher may provide each group with a list of items to find in the newspaper, such as a car ad, a headline beginning with the letter “p,” a picture of an animal, etc. The first group to find all items on the list wins a prize.)
- 🍎 **Average Temperatures** Students are asked to find the average temperature of two or more cities listed on the weather map. (**Variations:** Students may be asked to find all the cities with temperatures below or above a certain number, all cities with the same temperatures or cities with the highest and lowest temperatures.)
- 🍎 **Grab a simile.** Teacher cuts words from newspaper headlines and places them in a box. Students then draw two words and write them as a simile and has to explain how those two words are alike. For example, the student draws the words “football” and “strike.” The student would write a sentence such as “A football is like a strike because _____.” (**Variations:** Primary students may draw two words and have to write a sentence using both words. Lower grade students may also be asked to look up each word in the dictionary and copy down their meanings.)
- 🍎 **Finish the comics.** Teacher distributes each student a comic where the last frame has been omitted or the dialogue in the last frame has been covered. The students must read the comic to decide how it should end, then write the concluding dialogue or draw the concluding frame. (**Variation:** Secondary teachers may select three to five short newspaper articles, cover up the key words and photocopy them. From the remaining text, students must decide what words would best fit into the blank spaces.)
- 🍎 **Find the pronouns.** Students have three minutes to circle as many pronouns as they can find on the front page. (**Variations:** Students can be asked to find compound words, capital letters, proper nouns, etc.)

Newspapers in Education

The Benton County Daily Record, Northwest Arkansas Times, & Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

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