

Newspapers in the Classroom

Students learn best when they are motivated and when the topics they study are interesting and relevant to their lives. In a growing number of classrooms, newspapers are providing some of the best motivational and timely resources.

With today's emphasis on resource-based instruction, teachers around the world are using newspapers to supplement textbooks and provide relevant resources in reading, writing, math, science, history, economics, language arts, special education, and second language learning. Using newspapers, students are applying literacy and numeracy skills and appreciating the importance of history and current affairs. And the benefits go far beyond providing resources. Studies have shown that students who use newspapers score higher on reading comprehension tests and develop stronger critical thinking skills. Using newspapers also helps students develop compassion and tolerance for different cultures.

CAUTION Remember to prescreen all the sites in this article: newspapers and news sources may contain adult content.

The Arizona Republic: Newspapers in Education
<http://www.azcentral.com/community/nie/sponsorship.html>

KidBibs: Newspaper Activities Support Children's Learning
<http://kidbibs.com/learningtips/lt40.htm>

Top Ten Reasons to Use Newspapers in the Classroom
<http://www.augustachronicle.com/nie/topten.shtml>

Real-Life Learning Served Fresh Daily
<http://www.gr-press.com/nie/teachers.html>

Bringing the World to the High School Classroom
<http://www.usatodaysecure.com/ideas/idea5.cfm>

Newspapers in Education (NIE)

In 1955, newspaper publishers worldwide formed Newspapers in Education. The mandate of the program is to build literacy by providing educational materials and newspapers to schools, colleges, adult literacy programs, youth detention centers, and other non-school-based education programs. Member publishers distribute local dailies and weeklies at a reduced cost and provide training for teachers in how to use newspapers as teaching and learning tools.

Today, the NIE boasts a membership of 700+ newspapers in North America and a presence in at least 52 other countries worldwide. The services differ from paper to paper. Typically, the NIE asks local businesses to subsidize the cost of providing newspapers to a local school and asks subscribers to donate their papers while on vacation. Some NIE newspapers require a minimum purchase over a set period of time. Incentives are sometimes provided for year-long participation. If you are interested in using the NIE to support the use of newspapers in your classroom, call your local paper or check the list of participating newspapers at these sites.

The TIMES: History of the NIE
<http://www.little-g.com/shockwave/cents.html>

The Times-News
<http://www.magicvalley.com/misc/nie/history.php>

Detroit Free Press: NIE
<http://nieonline.com/detroit/index.cfm>

What Is NIE
<http://www.daily-journal.com/nie/>

Online Newspapers

When the Web became more efficient in distributing graphics and sound, some thought that newspapers would become obsolete. Instead, the number of newspapers has increased, and many are using the Web as a means of archiving their stories and pictures and updating breaking news. Over 500 U.S. and 1,500 international newspapers now have a Web presence.

Online newspapers are being increasingly used in classrooms, too. Students are reading shortened versions of stories written by journalists whose bylines appear in print. Students are also using email to question reporters and to share opinions with editors. Some papers also provide chat rooms where students can discuss the news with their peers. By accessing these different online papers, students see how viewpoints of world events differ from region to region and from nation to nation, which is a real-time learning experience only recently possible.

These Web sites list local, regional, national, and international newspapers that have online versions of their printed papers.

Online Newspapers
<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/>

Refdesk.com: Newspapers—USA and Worldwide
<http://www.refdesk.com/paper.html>

Canadian Newspapers Online
<http://alpha.nornet.on.ca/~chittim/newsp.htm>

UK Newspapers Online
<http://www.britishpapers.co.uk/>

Australian Newspapers Online
<http://www.nla.gov.au/npapers>

World Newspaper Directory
<http://www.worldpapers.org>

Online News for Students

A growing number of newspaper publishers and television networks have produced student versions of their news coverage. Filled with colorful graphics, sound, and lively animations, these online editions are more appealing to kids. They cover national and international news from a kid's perspective, and they provide word games, puzzles, and questions that test their understanding of the stories they have read. Other features include extended coverage of important past events, tours of world regions, opinion polls, and features relevant to today's youth.

Some online news sites contain another benefit: teachers can link the online editions directly to curriculum outcomes. For example, Time for Kids and Scholastic News for Kids link to teaching strategies, classroom-ready lessons plans, instructional materials, student activity sheets, and curriculum guides, many of which are based on current affairs. They even list other Web sites students can access for additional research on selected topics.

Scholastic News for Kids
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/>

TIME for Kids
<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/>

KIND News Online
<http://www.kindnews.org/default.asp>

Yahooligans News
<http://www.yahooligans.com/content/news/>

The New York Times News Summaries

<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/pop/index.html>

StudentNewsNet

<http://www.studentnewsnet.com/>

Kidsnewsroom.org

<http://www.kidsnewsroom.com/>

The School Times

<http://www.schooltimes.com/>

The Wall Street Journal Online Classroom Edition

<http://www.wsjclassroomedition.com/index.html>

The Newspaper

<http://www.thenewspaper.org.uk/news/index.php3>

St. Petersburg Times

<http://www.sptimes.com/nie/kidonly.html>

Environmental News Network

<http://enn.com/>

PBS NewsHour for Students

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/>

BBC Newsround

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/default.stm>

ABC News4Kids

<http://abcnews.go.com/abcnews4kids/kids/>

Discovery News

<http://dsc.discovery.com/news/news.html>

Start Your Own Classroom Newspaper

If your students love to write stories, draw pictures, and organize information, why not have them publish their own classroom newspaper? Student-created newspapers are an excellent way to teach most writing skills and promote your classroom or school in the community. Students can even create Web versions of their newspaper to broaden their audience.

How Newspapers Work

<http://www.howstuffworks.com/newspaper.htm>

Journalistic Jargon

<http://www.freep.com/jobpage/high/jargon.htm>

Start Your Own Newspaper

http://www.lfpress.com/cgi-bin/publish.pl?s=nie&h=nie_resources

Newspaper Writing 101

<http://www.freep.com/jobpage/academy/writing.htm>

Student Writing Ideas

<http://web.myinky.com/nie/about.htm>

Top Ten Tips for Great Pictures

http://www.kodak.com/eknec/PageQuerier.jhtml?pq-path=317&pq-locale=en_US

AskERIC Classroom Newsletter

http://www.askeric.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Language_Arts/Journalism/JNL0200.html

The first week in March is Newspapers In Education Week. Why not use these resources to help bring this event into your classroom!

How to Get Started

<http://www.wan-press.org/article542.html>

Elementary Theme Pages

<http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/CITE/newspapers.htm>

Ideas and Resources for Teachers

Most NIE members have developed their own curriculum support materials and maintain Web sites with innovative tips and ideas on integrating newspapers into the classroom. But using newspapers in the classroom is not limited to NIE-sponsored editions. Students can also bring papers from home and share them with their classmates. Teachers need to arrange a classroom center equipped with scissors, glue, markers, construction paper, and activity sheets or task cards to help the experience run smoothly.

Techniques

The Free Lance-Star: 100 Ways to Use the Newspaper

<http://www.fredericksburg.com/nie/content/LessonPlans/100.htm>

Education World: 25 Great Ideas for Teaching Current Events

http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson072.shtml

AskERIC: 20 Ideas for Teaching Science Using the Newspaper

http://askeric.org/cgi-bin/printlessons.cgi/Virtual/Lessons/Science/Instructional_Issues/ISS0001.html

Star Tribune Online Idea

<http://www.startribune.com/education/started.shtml>

Newspaper in Education and Journalism Links

<http://www.suelebeau.com/nie.htm>

The Advocate: Fun with the Newspaper

<http://www.theadvocate.com/education/newspaperfun/>

Curriculum Guides

Daily Hampshire Gazette Curriculum Guides

<http://www.gazettenet.com/nie/curriculumguides.htm>

Newshounds' Curriculum Guides for Teachers

<http://www.newshounds.ca/teach1.htm>

News Relief Curriculum Guides

<http://www.newsrelief.com/>

Lesson Plans

Calgary Herald Lessons Plans

<http://www.canada.com/calgary/calgaryherald/specials/education/activity.html>

The Times-Picayune Classroom Enrichment Program Activities

<http://www.timespicayune.com/pages/circulation/nieactvt.html>

The Detroit News and Detroit Free Press Editorial Cartoons

<http://nieonline.com/detroit/cftc.cfm>

Making Jigsaw Activities Using Newspaper Articles

<http://iteslj.org/Techniques/Dycus-Jigsaw.html>

Newspapers In Education: We Deliver the World

<http://www.savannahnow.com/features/NIE/index.shtml>

USA TODAY: K-12 Education Online

<http://www.usatoday.com/educate/home.htm>

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