

## **A Walk Through the Newspaper**

Step One: Explain to students that the newspaper is organized in sections and that newspapers are numbered according to each section (A1, A2; B1,B2; etc.) Introduce students to the index and have them use it to find certain items such as the crossword puzzle or other specific information.

Step Two: Introduce newspaper terminology to students using the front page of the newspaper. (See Newspaper Glossary elsewhere on this site.)

Step Three: Discuss the different kinds of stories and articles found in the newspaper. These include news stories, features, editorials, columns, and reviews. Explain where different kinds of stories are found.

Step Four: Explain that news stories can come from one of four locations: international, national, state, and local. Have students circle and label one of each type of story. Point out wire service (Associated Press or AP) stories.

Step Five: Tell students about the inverted pyramid style of news writing that starts with a lead paragraph containing the five W's and sometimes an H. (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?) Have each student select a news story and see if the lead contains the five W's and an H.

Step Six: Locate the weather information and explain the things on that page. Have students choose five of the listed cities and locate them on a map. Next determine the difference between the high and low temperatures for each city. Which city had the most precipitation?

Step Seven: Have students locate the "Opinion" page and explore the things that appear on this page. Ask students to examine the letters to the editor and, above or beside each one, write the topic or main idea. Explain the difference between fact and opinion. Then ask students to choose one editorial or column and underline in green those things that are fact and in red the things that are opinion.

Step Eight: Locate the comics page and give students the opportunity to read several comics. Have students vote for their favorite comic.

Step Nine: Ask students to find a question/answer column such as Dear Abby. Have them read that column, then write an answer to one of the letters giving their ideas and opinions about how to solve the problem.

Step Ten: There are two kinds of ads: display and classified. Explain to students that the display ads are those where space is purchased by a business to attract customers or share information. Classified ads are far less expensive and much smaller. Readers can place classified ads (i.e. garage sales, houses for rent, lost/found). Some classified ads are placed by businesses such as car dealerships and real estate companies. The Help Wanted ads are placed by businesses seeking employees. Show the students that the various categories of the classified ads are numbered.

Step Eleven: Find the Sports section. Have students list the cities mentioned in the datelines and name the state in which each city is located. Have students list all the types of sports covered in today's newspaper.

Step Twelve: Have students pretend they work for a newspaper. They are to write their favorite kind of story, article, column, or editorial. If time permits, they can also create an ad, editorial cartoon, or comic strip.