

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 2-5

### 1 What's in the News?

Newspapers and their eEditions are full of different types of writing. There is hard news covering events happening around the world, our country, your state and even your town. Then there are feature stories that look for the human element and focus on a specific person or cause. Also included in the newspaper are editorials and personal columns, which give the writers a chance to share their opinions. Knowing how these types of writing are different will make you a better reader. Find a hard news story, a feature story and an editorial in your eEdition. Discuss the differences in writing as a class. Then take a look at an event or activity at your school and try your hand at one of these types of writing. Which did you choose, and why?

Learning Standard: Responding to multiple text types by reflecting, making connections, taking a position and/or showing understanding.

### 2 Super Statisticians

Football season is under way. Professional teams are working out the kinks of their games in training camp, and college teams are back on campus practicing for their September kickoffs. As with any sport, football is big on statistics. Fans closely follow the numbers on how their team and its individual players are doing. They want to know how many yards a player has gained, how many sacks a defensive player has made and, most importantly, how many touchdowns have been scored and by whom. Following football is a great way to practice your graphing skills. Choose a team to follow and create a graph for specific statistics, such as touchdowns or sacks of the quarterback. Use your eEdition and sports team websites to find key stats each week and chart them.

Learning Standards: Using charts, graphs and tables to organize and display information; reading and interpreting bar graphs in both horizontal and vertical formats.

### 3 Find Those Phrases

Knowing which words do what is an important skill to have to be a great reader and writer. Words can name things as nouns do, show action as verbs do, describe nouns as adjectives do, or tell when and where something happens as prepositional phrases do. Prepositions are words like "on," "in" "before" or "after." Prepositional phrases can be part of a sentence such as "on his bike" or "in the store." Find a story in your eEdition that looks interesting to you. Print out the story. Using a highlighter, find and highlight all the prepositional phrases in the story.

Learning Standard: Identifying parts of speech, including compound sentences, direct and indirect objects, common and proper nouns and prepositional phrases.

### 4 Use That Index!

Welcome to another school year using the eEdition. The front page Index lets you find information about what is inside the eEdition in an easy way. Click on the Index on Page 1 of today's eEdition. Then go to the tool bar at the top of the page and find the pull-down that offers readers a Visual or Graphic Mode and a Text Mode. With the Index open, try each mode. What do you see with each mode? What are the advantages of each mode? Finish by writing a complete sentence explaining which mode you think you would use the most.

Learning Standards: Using prescribed technology tools for data collection and analysis; describing uses of technology in daily life.

### 5 Amazing Rescue

Dale Ostrander headed down to the beach for a day of fun with his church youth group. The 12-year-old was playing in the ocean when a giant wave and strong undertow sucked him and a friend into the surf. Nicole Kissel was also at the beach that day with her dad Shanon. When 12-year-old Nicole saw what had happened to the

boys, she paddled out toward them on her boogie board. She helped Ostrander get up on her board, and they started heading in when a second huge wave hit them and sent them flying off the board. Her dad was able to reach her, but they couldn't see Ostrander. Fifteen minutes later, emergency rescuers found him, and were able to revive him on the way to the hospital. Ostrander is now talking and getting better. With family or friends, search your eEdition for someone doing something heroic. Or find an example online. Fold a paper in three and draw pictures showing what the person did first, next and last.

Learning Standards: Identifying the main points of a story including the introduction, supporting details and conclusion; using the craft of the illustrator to express ideas artistically.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 6-8

### 1 Making Ends Meet

Genna Saucedo never thought she would have to rely on food stamps to feed her son and herself. After all, she had a job as a supervisor at Walmart. But with only 26 hours of work a week at \$9.70 an hour, Saucedo had no choice, according to a Reuters article. "It's kind of sad that even though I'm working, I need to have government assistance," she said. Many families are in the same situation. There are almost 46 million Americans on food stamps. Find an eEdition article about someone who is struggling in today's economy. Discuss the article with your classmates. Then write a personal letter offering support or encouragement to the person in the article.

Learning Standards: Describing how individuals, businesses and government make economic decisions when confronting scarcity in the market economy; writing fluently for multiple purposes.

### 2 Four-Legged Hero

As the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks on America draws closer, many writers are revisiting some of the heroes from that tragedy. Some of the heroes are people, but some were animals. Abby, a black Labrador dog trained to lead rescue teams, and her trainer Debra Tosch arrived on the scene at the World Trade Center in New York 11 days after the attack, according to a Yahoo! News article. Abby spent the next 10 days climbing over the rubble left by the World Trade Center towers, sniffing for survivors. She never found any. Now, 10 years later, Abby has hung up her leash and is enjoying life as a retiree. Find an eEdition article about a 9/11 hero – human or animal. Write a summary of the story, including how the story made you feel.

Learning Standards: Retelling through concise summarization grade level narrative and informational text; responding to written, visual and electronic texts by making connections to students personal lives and the lives of others.

### 3 Search for the News!

Welcome to another school year using the eEdition. Every day, your eEdition allows you to find stories that interest you. Your eEdition also allows you to search recent editions for related stories. Go to a news section of the eEdition or the sports section and scan the pages for a story that interests you. Read the story and write a short paragraph summarizing the news and explaining why it interests you. Then use the Advanced Search feature in the toolbar at the top of the page to find other stories on the same subject. Write how having the ability to search can be a benefit to readers.

Learning Standards: Defining subject searching and devising a search strategy to locate information using available electronic research resources; demonstrating knowledge of changes in technologies and the effect those changes have.

### 4 Hey! That's Interesting

Gone are the days of writing simple narratives about what you did over the summer. Middle school means more in-depth writing, including research reports. A lot of students head to the library to find a topic for their research paper. They look through history, science or other textbooks for ideas. Instead of searching in textbooks, try searching the eEdition for timely issues to research and write about. Look in the eEdition for articles about issues that are important to you. Using one article as a jumping off point, create an outline for a future research paper assignment.

Learning Standards: Formulating research questions using multiple resources and perspectives to develop a thesis statement that can culminate in a final project; acquiring information from written, visual and electronic texts.

### 5 Say Cheese!

Sixty years ago, Ninalee Craig was a 23-year-old woman traveling by herself in Italy. While there, she met another young woman, photographer Ruth Orkin, who was traveling on her own. The two took to the streets of Italy, and Orkin photographed Craig as she toured the city of Florence. At one point, Craig became the object of attention of a

Learning Standards: Producing and exhibiting a final product that demonstrates quality craftsmanship and technique at an emerging level; responding to visual texts; viewing strategically and representing creatively.

group of Italian men on a sidewalk. Orkin snapped a picture of the reaction of the men to Craig, and it became one of the most popular photos of all time. Titled "American Girl in Italy," it was first published in *Cosmopolitan* magazine in 1952. Many times, pictures of small daily events have big impact on viewers. Search your eEdition for photographs of people that have an emotional impact on you. Pick one and write a paragraph explaining how the photo affects you. Then take a camera to the streets of your town and capture images of its people. Put together an exhibit of the photos taken by your class.

A Teaching Tool  
for Tomorrow

# news {..BYTES..}

## for eEditions

grades 9-12

1

### Learning How

Welcome to another school year using the eEdition. One of the first things you should do is review how your eEdition works. Click on the “Help,” “Introduction” or “Information” icon. This icon is the “How To” button for your eEdition. One of the first things to learn is how to move through your eEdition. There are several ways. When starting out, it is helpful to try each to see which you like best. Start with the navigation arrows, which usually are in the toolbar. They often are labeled “First,” “Prev,” “Next” and “Last.” Click on each. Then write a paragraph describing how each allows you to move through your eEdition and how using the navigation arrows compares to the way people read a printed newspaper.

Learning Standards: Understanding the operations and functions of technology systems and becoming proficient in the use of technology; comparing information technologies from the past and present.

2

### Equal Rights

A 30-foot statue of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stands proudly on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. This honor for the famous civil rights leader is the first time a Mall memorial has been erected that doesn't salute a president, a war or a white man, according to a Reuters news service article. Last week, the memorial was unveiled, showing Dr. King standing with his arms crossed and a copy of his “I Have a Dream Speech” in one of his hands. Also part of the granite memorial is a wall inscribed with 14 famous quotations from Dr. King's speeches, sermons and writings. Find an eEdition article about people striving for civil rights or human rights in this country or another part of the world. Compare the struggle of people in the article with that of Dr. King.

Learning Standards: Evaluating the major accomplishments and setbacks in civil rights and liberties for American minorities over the 20th century; evaluating the responses of individuals to historic violations of human dignity involving discrimination or persecution.

3

### A Hero's Conundrum

Antonio Diaz Chacon watched as a six-year-old girl was snatched from a street in New Mexico, according to a Reuters news story. Jumping in his car, Chacon chased the kidnapper until the kidnapper ran his car into a pole. Chacon grabbed the girl from the truck and the kidnapper fled, but later was found and arrested. New Mexico citizens are hailing Chacon as a hero, but his illegal immigration status may cause a problem, the story said. Find an eEdition story about immigration and read it as a class. Divide the class in half and debate the legal issues surrounding immigration in this country.

Learning Standards: Evaluating the criteria used for admission to citizenship in the United States and describing the distinction between legal and illegal immigration; stating an issue as a question of public policy, identifying causes and analyzing the positive or negative impact.

4

### Media Bias?

Journalists strive to present issues in a fair and balanced way. Yet many people claim reporters bring their own personal bias and slant when writing news stories — especially political stories. The media has been accused of having a liberal agenda that affects the stories being reported upon and how they are written. However, there are times when people from one side of the story or the other refuse to comment and both sides can't be represented. Find three political articles in the eEdition. Read them carefully and write a brief opinion of whether you think the reporters showed any bias.

Learning Standards: Looking for evidence to support assumptions and beliefs and considering the potential for bias; responding to a variety of written, electronic and visual texts; acquiring, organizing and analyzing information.

5

### 9/11 Aftermath

Teri Maude woke up in California on September 11, 2001. She was at a conference, and she turned on the television in her room. She saw planes flying into the World Trade Center towers in New York City. In a corner of the screen was an inset showing the Pentagon burning in Washington, D.C. “I thought, ‘Oh my God.’

Then the phone rang,” she recalled recently. It was her boss in Washington, who told her that a plane had crashed into the personnel offices where her husband of 33 years worked. Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude was the highest ranking officer to die in the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon. As the 10th anniversary of 9/11 approaches, many survivors are telling their stories. Find an eEdition article about a survivor or family member of a victim of 9/11. Read the story and write a reflective essay on how you feel about the experiences of that person and how the events of 9/11 changed the nation.

Learning Standards: Writing reflective essays in response to newspaper or magazine articles; acquiring information from written or electronic sources and then organizing and analyzing it.

A Teaching Tool  
For Tomorrow