



Essential Learnings Checklist for News Lessons That Work

A community literacy partnership of the Pinellas County School System and the *St. Petersburg Times*

Lesson number	Lesson Concept	Words & Text L.A.A.1.4.2	Compare/ Contrast L.A.A.2.2.7	Main Idea & Details L.A.A.2.4.1	Author's Purpose L.A.A.2.4.2	Research Tasks L.A.A.2.4.4	Validity L.A.A.2.4.7	Synthesis L.A.A.2.4.8	Cause and Effect L.A.E.2.2.1	Literature L.A.E.2.4.1	Vocabulary L.A.A.1.4.3	Pre reading Strategies L.A.A.1.4.4	Post reading Strategies L.A.A.1.4.1
17	Drawing Conclusions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
18	Drawing Conclusions	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
19	Fact / Opinion	X	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
20	Fact /Opinion		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X
21	Generalizing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
22	Generalizing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
23	Graphic Sources	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X
24	Graphic Sources	X	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X
25	Main Idea	X		X		X	X	X			X	X	X
26	Main Idea	X		X		X	X	X			X	X	X
27	Making Judgments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
28	Making Judgments	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
29	Paraphrasing	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
30	Paraphrasing	X			X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
31	Plot	X		X						X		X	X
32	Plot	X		X						X		X	
33	Plot	X		X						X		X	



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34	Plot	X		X						X		X	
35	Prediction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
36	Prediction	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
37	Sequence	X		X		X						X	X
38	Setting	X		X						X		X	X
39	Setting	X		X						X		X	X
40	Steps in a Process	X				X	X	X				X	X
41	Steps in a process	X				X	X	X				X	X
42	Summarizing												
43	Summarizing	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
44	Summarizing	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
45	Summarizing	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
46	Text Structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
47	Text Structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
48	Text Structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
49	Text Structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
50	Text Structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X



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51	Text structure	X	X	X					X		X	X	X
52	Theme	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X
53	Theme	X	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	X
54	Visualizing	X		X				X			X	X	X
55	Visualizing	X		X				X			X	X	X
56	Visualizing	X		X				X			X	X	X

How these NIE lessons reinforce High Yield strategies: One area of focus for improving reading instruction in Pinellas County will be the use of “High Yield” strategies, adapted from *Classroom Instruction that Works* (ASCD 2001). The Times NIE program has integrated these instructional tools in the following manner (High Yield strategies are in bold):

Nonlinguistic representations and **Questions, cues, and advance organizers** are used in ALL of the reading center cards. Each card uses advance organizers in the “*Activate prior knowledge*” section, questions and cues are embedded in the *newspaper activities*, and nonlinguistic representations are promoted in the “*graphic organizers you can use*” section.

Reinforcing effort and providing recognition can be accomplished by creating a *News We Use* bulletin board to highlight student work in the newspaper literacy center. You can submit student work to be displayed on the *Times NIE* website (sptimes.com/nie). You may want to institute a “Spread the News” activity where students can share a “best story of the week,” “biggest villain” or “local hero.” The class can vote on a Top 5, and perhaps student summaries with the articles could be posted on your bulletin board.

Setting objectives and providing feedback is a critical part of every teacher’s practice. The “*Activate prior knowledge*” section of the cards is a great place to identify objectives. The Times NIE program will provide you with ready-made materials to create student portfolios, including a menu of activities, a reader response journal, and a word collector’s kit to improve student vocabulary.

Cooperative learning is easy to accomplish with these Newspaper activities. Most all of the lessons are designed to be done individually or in a small group. Students can also act as editors for each other’s work. Use the *St. Petersburg Times NIE* supplement, *The Write Stuff*, to hone your students’ editing and proofreading skills.

Homework and practice can deliver a one-two punch with your NIE connection! Students can take home newspapers and do additional activities to reinforce classroom instruction. . . .which will also serve as a great way to keep the newspapers from piling up at your Literacy Station. You can assign activities from an NIE supplement, the reading center cards, or from weekly lessons you can download from the NIE website. Encourage students to try lessons with a parent or family member.

Identifying similarities and differences, Summarizing and note taking, and Generating and testing hypotheses are all reinforced in specific lessons. Refer to the Essential Learning Checklist Chart for easy selection.