

Susan Terry, Carwise Middle School, Pinellas County



“When will we ever need to know this?” my students cry out to me. All I have to do is pick up a Tampa Bay Times, and they know the answer. “Everyday!” is my response. Using the Tampa Bay Times is a life lesson. I try to connect the newspaper with every standard I must teach.”

Susan was chosen as a 2015 Honorable Mention for using the *Tampa Bay Times* as an essential part of her teaching.

Susan uses the *Times* as an ongoing supplement to her textbook to help her students discover the world around them. Students learn to evaluate, cite textual evidence, compare and contrast, examine major sections, understand the authors’ reason to write, find transitions in writing, use information from text to support main idea and collaborate with others their age.

In one project, each student picked an interesting *Tampa Bay Times* article to use as the basis for a lesson on a literary standard. Students taught lessons to their peers on topics including vocabulary, content clues, cause and effect, inference, central idea, sequence of events and evaluating an argument’s pros and cons. The students learned

to evaluate, cite textual evidence, compare and contrast, understand the author's reason for writing and use information from the text to support a main idea. Students were given rubrics for the project. When students presented their lessons, they had to be able to evaluate the learning by asking questions at the end or by highlighting the information in the text.

