

Audra Lewis, Young Middle Magnet School, Hillsborough County



“Having the newspapers daily enables my class to read and discuss current real world issues and at the same time look at how writers use different techniques or crafts for different purposes.”

Audra was chosen as a 2017 Honorable Mention because of her commitment to using the *Tampa Bay Times* to teach the craft of professional writing.

Audra uses the newspaper to teach her students what “real” writers’ techniques look like in action.

Students analyze newspaper texts as a close reading lesson to interpret the craft and structure of the work. They dissect the writing for different techniques and trends to analyze the format of successful writing. As a class, the students discuss the various purposes, audiences and formats of informational text as well as the role of writers.

In groups, students read and analyze articles, followed by class discussions on topics such as sentence structure, thesis, word choice, logos, pathos, commentary, and hooks and leads.

Audra credits the newspaper for helping her students develop a love for reading and writing, and for contributing towards significant learning gains on assessments.