

Donald Whitaker, Inverness Middle School, Citrus County



“My co-teacher and I teach inclusion Civics at Inverness Middle School. The Tampa Bay Times makes high level learning possible, engages students and allows them to have an informed debate or ask an informed question based on what they read, rather than what they heard.”

Donald was chosen as a 2018 Honorable Mention because of his use of the newspaper to teach students about core civics concepts.

Throughout the year, he uses the *Tampa Bay Times* to enhance lessons on government and current events by helping students to visualize new material and apply the lessons learned to daily life.

In January 2018, Donald and his co-teacher Paul Hoyt created a week-long current events unit using the *Times* as a key resource. The goal of the project was to reinforce students’ knowledge of the constitutional principles of checks and balances, separation of powers, limited government, federalism, due process and rule of law.

Students began by choosing an article from the *Times* and examining it using a K-W-L (Know, Want to Know, Learned) chart.

Students then participated in a Socratic Seminar (a structured, text-based group discussion), where they discussed the issues and constitutional principles raised by their articles. This unit enhanced student learning by fostering inquiry and research and allowing students to see how constitutional principles work in the real world.

Newspaper Article Activity:

1st Choose an Article and Read it.

2nd - Fill out the following KWL Chart:

I Know.	What I want to Know.	What I learned.
Title of the Article: Triff's Man and items to make bombs	1 Question that you have before reading the article. • What kind of bomb? chemical or explosive - million p. • Why was he trying to make a bomb?	What branch of government is involved? (legislative, executive, judicial) • Executive
Date of Article: Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017	• How did he make a tiny pipe bomb inside a toy car?	What level of Government is involved? (federal, state, local) • Local
Name of Paper found. (main, city, etc) Tampa Bay and FL News	• Why was ^{he} he ^{trying} trying psilocybin mushrooms?	Who was involved? (examples: President Trump, Paul Ryan, etc) Grant, Chitwood, Lohrer, Langer's brother, several Police and deputes

Summarize the article: Explain in two - three sentences what the article was about. (Who, what, when, where, why).

This man who made lots of bombs
 Langer's brother was charge with
 making and possessing a destructive
 device

What constitutional principle is being observed? (rule of law, separation of powers, checks
 and balances, due process, popular sovereignty, limited government, federalism).

due process, rule of law