

Brenda Curtwright, Anclote High School / Gulf High School, Pasco County



“I make current events, news and newspapers relevant by connecting stories to students’ lives by first asking questions about their knowledge and experiences related to the topics... I feel students should take an active role in knowing about their community and pay attention to what is going on around them, and there is no (better) vehicle than the Tampa Bay Times to achieve these goals simultaneously. Encouraging students to discuss the articles and state their opinion causes them to be active stakeholders in the process of their community.”

Brenda was chosen as a 2019 Honorable Mention for using the *Tampa Bay Times* to help her students improve their language skills while also learning about the “real world.”

Linda teaches students with language impairments in two Title 1 schools. She considers the newspaper to be a “one stop shop,” allowing her to teach vocabulary, reading strategies and writing skills while also encouraging students to learn about their community.

Linda believes that students should take an active role in learning about their community. Her lessons enhance student learning by encouraging application of learning strategies to stories that affect their lives, which increases student engagement.

Encouraging students to discuss newspaper articles and state their opinion causes them to be active stakeholders and more informed consumers.

Linda makes current events, news and newspapers relevant by connecting stories to students' lives by first asking questions about their knowledge and experiences related to the topics. Before and after reading the newspaper articles, students conduct additional research, look up unfamiliar vocabulary words and discuss how the issues outlined in the articles affect their lives.