

# Kal eidos SCOPE

## EDUCATIONAL Newspaper Activities

Presented by:



**Jones Media, Inc.**  
**Newspapers In Education**

Credits:



**The Post and Courier**  
**Newspaper In Education**

and the South Carolina Press Association

## **Forward**

The newspaper activities contained in this book present innovative ideas for hands-on learning by using the entire newspaper.

Activities are categorized according to the various sections and elements of the newspaper. These strategies give the student a greater understanding of the variety of this daily resource. In each part, the activities begin simple and progress to more complex.

The purpose of this Newspaper in Education project is to foster creativity, critical thinking and continuous learning.



## Introductory Activities

People read the newspaper to be informed. The newspaper index is a tool to find the information readers want. Divide the class into small groups. Work together to write one sentence which explains each index entry. As a class compare sentences and select the best one for each entry. For any entry about which you're unclear, refer to the page(s) listed.



Different parts of the newspaper are written for different audiences. In small groups, review the various sections of today's newspaper to determine the audience targeted by specific article and advertisements.



Work with a partner. Select three headlines from throughout the newspaper. Write the headlines on the board. Ask the class to decide in which section each headline appears. Choose one headline. Locate the story and answer the 5 W's.



Reading and using the newspaper are considered essential to effective citizenship. Scan today's newspaper to locate information a concerned citizen in your community would need to know. Choose one of those issues on which you would like to be able to vote.



Freedom of the Press protects the rights of media consumers to know what is happening around them. If those rights did not exist, interest groups might be allowed to control the information received. Scan today's newspaper to find articles which members of the following groups might wish to delete:

sports figures	students
teachers	parents
law enforcement officials	criminals
lawmakers	government executives

Record the headline of each article with the appropriate group.  
If you were the censor, what article(s) would you delete?



### Newspaper Safari

Use today's newspaper to locate the following:

1. Front Page – Choose the most important article and circle the 5 W's.
2. Weather – Record the time for sunrise today and how many hours of sunshine.
3. Editorial (opinion) – Who or what is the editorial cartoon about today?
4. Comics – Find two strips with animals as characters.
5. Features – Find the name of one person in a feature article.
6. Classified Ads – List one pet in Lost and Found that you would like to find.

## Introductory Activities, continued

7. Sports – Circle two “colorful” or “vivid” words in the sports headlines that probably would not be in another section.
8. Obituaries – Circle the age of the oldest persons listed today.
9. Entertainment – List two movies that you think are “typically” American.
10. Business – What are two topics in the business news today?



## Tips for the Teacher

1. Think ahead about the management of the class set of newspapers before they arrive. For example, make sure that students have enough room to work. Stress that each student leave the newspaper sections in correct order for the next class’s use.
2. Introduce the format of the newspaper at the beginning of your newspaper work. Explain page numbering, sections, and the index. Talk about different parts, kinds of articles, and any information to help them with their work throughout the newspaper.

Employ newspaper jargon in your work:

**Advertisement** – space paid for by a business (display or retail ad) or individual to promote a product, service or idea

**Byline** – name of person who wrote an article

**Credit line** – name of wire service which provided information

**Cut** – newspaper photograph

**Cutline** – words of explanation under a cut

**Dateline** – place where the story was written

**Editorial** – newspaper’s opinion on an issue

**Feature** – human interest story which is usually less timely than a news article

**Flag/logo** – newspaper’s name when it appears on the top of the front page

**Headline** – explanatory line(s) above an article which gives the main idea

**Jumpline** – directions to the continuation of an article

**News** – factual report of current happenings

3. Allow free reading time each newspaper day. As you give students time to satisfy their curiosity about what is in the newspaper, you will also have time to survey headlines and topics. Plan time for students to share items they found interesting. Train them to tell the class briefly who, what, when, where, why.
4. Send newspapers home with your students when you are finished with them. Encourage intergenerational literacy. Stress recycling. Use your classroom setting as a role model for recycling if newspapers are not taken home.

## News

In today's newspaper, choose a national news article that affects your family. What impact will this have on your community, family and you?



Choose someone in the news today. Write five facts about this person without using his/her name. Ask your class to identify the newsmaker as you read your facts aloud.



Select a news story you enjoyed reading in today's newspaper. Write the answers to the 5 W's. Now write an E-Mail message of no more than 15 words to a friend telling the main idea.



After reading the newspaper over a period of time, choose a topic from a continuing story (for example, the Olympics). Make a weekly journal to summarize an article related to your topic. Be prepared to serve as the class expert on your topic.



Divide the class into teams. One team selects a state or national dateline. The other team(s) has thirty seconds to locate the dateline on the map. One point is awarded for each place correctly located.



With a partner select three headlines to present to the class. As a class categorize each as good/bad/neutral news. Discuss your classification. Report your data on a graph.



From today's newspaper create the profile of a good citizen by listing appropriate character traits displayed by people in the news. List at least six traits and the people from whom you have selected them.



Today's news is tomorrow's history. Your history book will have four chapters: *local*, *state*, *national* and *world*. Record the headlines (from today's newspaper) of the major events you would include in each section. Be ready to give an explanation for each choice.



Select a news story involving conflict from today's newspaper. Define the problem. From your knowledge of the situation, predict the final outcome. Write your prediction on an index card to file with your teacher. Compare your prediction with the final outcome.



Many news stories concern conflicts that have arisen regarding events in our lives. The conflicts can be classified as: *individual vs. group*, *group vs. group*, *individual/group vs. society*, and *society vs. society*. Scan today's newspaper to find at least three examples of conflicts. Into which category does each fall? Suggest causes and effects of each conflict.

## Photos

Choose your favorite cut in today's newspaper. Tell what sounds you "hear" in your photo and what smells might be associated with it. Have your classmates find your photo from your descriptions.



With your classmates select an interesting photo in the newspaper. Study it for one minute. Turn it over and list the things you remember from the photo. Compare your list with your classmates.



Review the photos in today's newspaper, make a list of all the careers suggested in the photos. Devise a way to classify the careers.



Scan all the cutlines in today's newspaper and circle all math related words with red, science related words with green and social studies words with blue. Which category has the most vocabulary?



Choose three unrelated photos from today's newspaper. Use them to create a children's story. Share your work with the class.



Locate photos in today's newspaper of the people who are making news around Tennessee. Write a short paragraph explaining why each person is newsworthy.



Find photos of people in today's newspaper. Classify them as leaders, entertainers, athletes, business people or ordinary citizens. Write two facts that you learned about each of them.



Scan the cuts in today's newspaper to find examples of non-verbal communication. Explain to the class what is being communicated in your examples. Think of another non-verbal way to convey the same message.



Estimate the total number of cuts in today's newspaper. Count the cuts in each section and record your findings. Compare your findings to the estimate. Which section had the most cuts? Graph the distribution of cuts by section.



Scan the newspaper to find at least three articles with photos. Analyze how the photographs contribute to the story. Find a story that does not have a photo but would benefit from one. What would the photo include?

## Features/Entertainment

Choose a human interest article in today's newspaper. Draw a picture to illustrate the story. Display your drawing and have your classmates determine the article that you illustrated.



Scan the feature section in today's newspaper. Find a story about someone who received help. What kind of help was given, why and by whom? In what circumstances have you needed or given help?



Identify all forms of entertainment you can find in one issue of your newspaper. Don't overlook classified ads. List costs associated with each.



Read a feature story in today's newspaper. Focus on action, drama, or the mood it creates. Create a poem, rap, or ballad based on the story. Work with a partner and perform it for the class.



Locate the horoscope in today's newspaper. Find/read your horoscope. Draw a graph reflecting the number of students in your class whose birthdays fall in each sign.



With a partner locate the TV listings in today's newspaper. Classify each TV program shown between 7:00 and 10:00, on three different channels, into the following categories: comedy, drama, news, sports and talk shows.



Choose an article from today's newspaper about someone with a lifestyle different from yours. What makes this person different? In what ways are you similar? Introduce the person to the class.



Some feature articles relate to news stories. Scan today's news headlines. Identify at least two topics that interest you. What are several feature stories which could be written about something in each article?



In the feature section of today's newspaper list each columnist. What topics do the columnists write about? Write a feature column about something that interests you. (For example: fashion, exercise, music...).



From the movie listings in today's newspaper find a movie you would like to see. Convince your parents that you should be allowed to see this movie. Start with facts: time, place and ratings. Be creative with your additional reasons.

## Sports

Scan the sports section. Underline names of male athletes with red and female athletes with green. Did you find more female or male athletes? Determine the ratio of male to female.



Choose a sports photo and study it carefully. What emotions are shown? If the person(s) in the photo could speak one sentence, what would it be?



Scan the sports section in today's newspaper. Compile a list of team names mentioned today. Alphabetize team names and record the place each is located.



List all of the sports covered in today's newspaper. Conduct a class survey to determine which is most popular among your classmates. Devise a way to show your results.



Scan the cuts in today's sports section. Choose one sport hero to whom you would like to write a letter praising him/her for his/her accomplishments. Set up your letter in correct form.



Read a sports article that interests you. List the sports vocabulary in the article. Join others in your class that have chosen an article about the same sport. Compile a group list of sports vocabulary in the articles. How many different sports did your class select? Which sport has the longest list? Which words do all the lists have in common?



Choose a team in today's sports news that you would like to see play. If the team plays its next game at home, which direction would you travel (N, S, E, W)? Look on the weather map to find out how many states you would cross.



Use the information in team standings or box scores in the newspaper to create three word problems to exchange with a partner.



Select three of your favorite teams from the sports section of today's newspaper. Write a short explanation about why you think these names were chosen. Consider location, traits or symbolism.



Choose an athlete pictured or named in the sports section. Write his/her job description. What skills and personality traits are needed to be successful? In what other careers would these skills/traits be helpful?

## Retail

Count the letters in your first name Write the number on a piece of paper. Using one section of the newspaper, circle that number every time it appears in a retail ad. Count how many you found and compare with your classmates' findings.



From today's newspaper find a retail ad featuring seasonal fashions. Change the ad to highlight clothing which will be advertised six months from today.



Scan the retail advertising in today's newspaper to choose ten items that appeal to you. Classify each item as a necessity or a luxury. Which classification costs more?



Think of an object you need or want. Using the ads in today's newspaper list all the businesses that advertise what you are shopping for. Which business has the best price? Which business is closest to your home? Which business would you buy from? Why?



Divide your class into as many groups as there are sections in today's newspaper. Have each group search the retail ads in their section for the most expensive item and the least expensive item. As a class devise a way to show your findings.



Place a large map of your local area on the bulletin board. Search retail ads in today's newspaper for logos of local businesses. Write the logo on a card to place in the correct location on the map. Practice giving directions from your school to the stores on the map.



Select a retail ad with multiple items in today's newspapers. You are the new manager of the store. Run a "Manager's Sale" with 25% off all items in the ad. What is the new sale price for each item? How much money is the shopper saving on each item?



In cooperative learning groups, select a page in section A of today's newspaper that has a combination of retail ads. Figure what percentage of the page is made up of ads and what percentage is news. As a class determine what percentage of section A is retail ads. Why is advertising important to the newspaper?



The Yale University Psychology Department has compiled a list of the 12 most persuasive words in the English language. With your class, brainstorm to create a list of the words your class thinks are most persuasive. Compare your list with Yale's findings: *new, easy, you, money, discovery, health, results, save, free, proven, love, guarantee*. Go through the retail ads in today's newspapers. Locate, chart and tally the persuasive words from the Yale list. Which words would your class add to the list?



**YOU BE THE JUDGE.** These characteristics can often be found in an efficient retail ad:

- 1.) gets attention
- 2.) shows advantages of the product
- 3.) creates a need
- 4.) persuades the reader.
- 5.) asks for action from the reader

Analyze several retail ads in today's newspaper to decide if you think they are effective. Which characteristics do they include?

## Classifieds

In the classified section locate “Land Lots for Sale”. Circle three ads which give both size and price. Compute the cost of each piece of land per sq. foot (1 acre is 43,560 sq. ft.).



Find a picture/story of a celebrity in today’s newspaper. If today were his/her birthday and you had \$1,000 to spend on a birthday present, what would you buy from the classified ads?



Locate the “Lost and Found” section of your classified ads. Develop a method of classification for the items listed. Construct a picture graph of those findings.



In the classified section locate “Vacation Rentals”. Choose a vacation spot that you and your family would enjoy. Mark the location on the newspaper weather map. How would you reserve this rental?



Skim a variety of classified ads in today’s newspaper to become familiar with the style. Think about what makes you special and the skills you have. Then write a classified ad renting yourself out as a helper.



From the “Ticket Section” of today’s classified ads, select the event you would most like to attend. Write a paragraph about your expectations.



Because classified advertising is sold by the line, abbreviations are used to save space. Divide your class into cooperative learning groups. In your group, list and explain as many abbreviations as you can find. Compile a class list.



Choose the ten cars from the classified section today that you would most want to have. Calculate the sales tax on each one.



Four essentials of business enterprise are land, labor, capital and management. Create a business using the classified ads to estimate the start-up cost. Find the space, hire employees, borrow money and hire management.



From the “Merchandise For Sale Section” of today’s classified ads, compile a list of examples of technology such as sewing machines, computers and electrical products. Arrange ten of the items in order on a time line by date of invention. Consult research books if necessary.

## Comics

Choose your favorite comic strip in today's newspaper. Answer the 5 W's about your strip. Predict what will happen next.



Look at the comics in today's newspaper. Pick the comic character you think is the most like you and tell a partner why you identify with this character. Then ask another classmate to pick the comic strip character he/she thinks is most like you. Did you agree?



Choose one comic character and pretend he/she is retiring from the comic strip. Write a classified ad for a replacement character. Include specific details about the character you are seeking.



Scan the comics in today's newspaper. Select your favorite comic character. Draw a comic strip depicting your character as a student in your school. Include dialogue and action. With a partner, role play your comic strip.



Imagine that today's comics floated into outer space and were read by an extraterrestrial who knew nothing about Earth and Earthlings. What misconceptions might they have about Earth based solely on what they see in the comics? For example: Do superheroes really exist? Find at least five possible misconceptions they might find in the comics. Compile a class list.



Choose a comic character from the newspaper. Look through the classified ads and select him/her an appropriate car or truck. Then look through the ads to find him/her a place to live that would suit his/her personality. Look through the grocery ads and plan a meal that this character would appreciate. Look through the job ads and find an appropriate job for your character. What items do you think you would find in this person's closet? Choose three people from the newspaper that you would invite to dinner with the character and justify why you would invite them.



You are a newspaper reporter assigned to interview two comic strip characters. Select two characters in today's newspaper and develop a set of questions to use in the interview. Also write what you believe their answers might be.



Develop a popularity poll of comic characters. Survey both classmates and adults. Create a graph to reflect your results.



Scan the comics in today's newspaper for examples of idioms, slang, jargon and dialect. Devise a way to report your findings.



Comic strip characters often have special qualities that set them apart from the average person. Choose a comic strip character that is representative of your community. He/She is the next candidate for mayor. Prepare a nominating speech or write a letter expressing why you have made your choice. Prepare a newspaper advertisement to try and convince citizens in your community to vote for your comic candidate.

## Miscellaneous

### Weather

Study the weather report in today's newspaper. Discuss weather words and symbols that you find. In small groups create a weather dictionary. Share with a younger class or display in your school media center.



Locate the weather information in today's newspaper. On a separate sheet of paper, make two columns headed "80° and Above" and "Below Freezing." List both national and world cities which report high and low temperatures in these categories. Repeat this classification periodically. Compare the findings. What conclusions can be drawn from the findings?



Study the detailed weather report in today's newspaper. Note as many different uses of numbers as you can. Which measurement is most useful to you?



Skim the international cities in today's weather report. Identify the one with which you are least familiar. What are the high/low temperatures? Identify county, continent, hemisphere, longitude/latitude and time zone. Use a globe, atlas or map.



### Editorial

Using today's newspaper, compare an editorial cartoon with your favorite comic strip. What is the topic of each? What similarities and differences do they contain?



Skim all the Letters to the Editor in today's newspaper. Choose one letter about a person or a group of people. If you were that person or a member of that group how would you respond? Write a response to the letter writer.



Often an editorial is written in 4-part style: question, proof, conclusion and a suggestion for reader action. Skim the editorials today to analyze which components you can find. Outline your findings.



### Business

The business world has a language all its own. In today's newspaper find five business-related words with which you are unfamiliar. Using context clues, try to determine their meanings. Check the dictionary for formal definitions.



Choose ten companies that you are familiar with from today's stock listings. Convert the last selling price from the fraction to dollars and cents. Which stock is the most expensive?



Scan today's business articles and retail ads. Identify any economic trends. What clues do these trends give you about the state of today's economy? Discuss your findings and their impact on you with the class.

\*Kaleidoscope was also compiled from the NIE departments of these newspapers.

**The Beaufort Gazette**  
Post Office Box 399  
Beaufort, SC 29901

**The Summerville Journal-Scene**  
104 East Doty Avenue  
Summerville, SC 29483

\***The Post and Courier**  
134 Columbus Street  
Charleston, SC 29403

\***The Sun News**  
Post Office Box 406  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

\***The State**  
Post Office Box 1333  
Columbia, SC 29202

\***The Herald-Journal**  
Post Office Box 1657  
Spartanburg, SC 29304-1657

**The Florence Morning News**  
Post Office Box 100528  
Florence, SC 29501

\***The Item**  
Post Office Box 1677  
Sumter, SC 29151

\***The Greenville News-Piedmont**  
Post Office Box 1688  
Greenville, SC 29602

If you would like to participate in or learn more about Newspapers in Education, contact the Newspapers in Education representative in your area.

**The Greeneville Sun**  
121 West Summer Street  
Post Office Box 1630  
Greeneville, TN 37744

**Rogersville Review**  
318 E. Main Street  
Post Office Box 100  
Rogersville, TN 37857

**The Newport Plain Talk**  
145 E. Broadway  
Post Office Box 279  
Newport, TN 37821

**The Daily Post-Athenian**  
320 South Jackson Street  
Post Office Box 340  
Athens, TN 37303

**Advocate & Democrat**  
609 Sweetwater/Vonore Road  
Post Office Box 389  
Sweetwater, TN 37874

**The Herald-News**  
3687 Rhea County Highway  
Post Office Box 286  
Dayton, TN 37321

**News-Herald**  
201 Simpson Road  
Post Office Box 310  
Lenoir City, TN 37771

**Watauga Democrat**  
474 Industrial Park Drive  
Boone, NC 28507

**The Blowing Rocket**  
452-1 Sunset Drive  
Post Office Box 1026  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605

**The Avery Journal**  
335 Linville Street  
Post Office Box 1330  
Newland, NC 28657