

Tips for using the newspaper in your classroom

- Order newspapers from the NIE or circulation department of your local newspaper. Many provide copies at no charge or have special educational rates for classrooms.
- Use this guide to help you plan lessons using the newspaper as your textbook. Note each page has suggestions to teach specific language arts standards. You may copy the activity sheets for each student or simply read the directions to the class.
- Once papers arrive, appoint one or two official student "carriers" to distribute them.
- For primary students, staple the pages of sections along the vertical fold for easier handling. Use only one section at a time with them.
- Have students sign their names at the top of the front page – especially if they share copies. They rarely turn in a signed, messy copy.
- Allow a few minutes for students to browse through the paper before beginning an activity. It frustrates them (as it does adults) to ask them not to read.
- Ask older students to read the headlines throughout the paper and mark the ones that interest them most. Then have them read at least three stories.
- Be flexible. If a story excites students, use it as a teachable moment and discuss.
- Use the suggested activities in this Idea Newspaper to get started.
- Allow at least five minutes at the end of class to clean up. Use pre-moistened towelettes or damp paper towels. (Place towels in a bucket with one inch of water.)
- Allow students to take papers home as the family may not receive another copy.
- A classroom set of newspapers fits in a large grocery bag. Date bags on the end and save for cut-up activities. Or bundle the newspapers for recycling.

