

SPECIAL REPORTING

In a newspaper some subjects that are covered may require "specialist" reporters. Basketball, automobiles, music and theater are a few examples. Read through the list of topics below. Number the subjects in the order for which you would like to be a specialty reporter. No. 1 would be the subject you would most like to cover. Circle any subjects in which you think you already are qualified to be a specialist. Fill in your name and specialty in the byline form at the bottom. Discuss your No. 1 choices as a class.

Subjects:

- _____ **Food/Cooking**
- _____ **Basketball**
- _____ **Automobiles**
- _____ **Baseball/Softball**
- _____ **Pet Care**
- _____ **Football**
- _____ **Music**
- _____ **Theater**
- _____ **Books**
- _____ **Business/Money**
- _____ **Fashion**
- _____ **Art**
- _____ **Travel**
- _____ **Television**
- _____ **Movies**
- _____ **Gardening**
- _____ **Other** _____



By _____

Specialty _____ **Reporter**

WAYS TO WRITE THE NEWS

Practicing newspaper writing can help students improve all their writing. There are many ways to write about the news. As newspapers compete with 24-hour TV, different approaches are being used to make written news more lively and interesting.

1. How to Gather News *

For every story in the newspaper the writer had to report and research the facts before sitting down to write. Learning to gather facts will help students in their classroom writing and research. As a class, read a story from the newspaper that interests students. Then discuss how they think the reporter went about getting the facts. Have them assume the reporter knew nothing about the subject at the start. Finish by having students write a five step approach for covering a story with the "How to Get the News" activity sheet.

STANDARDSKILLS: Employing multiple strategies to construct meaning, such as generating questions, analyzing mood and tone, and recognizing how authors use information.

2. Classified Power

The Classified Ads in the newspaper can be a good source of writing ideas. Odd requests and sale items often can provide an idea for a good story. Direct students to the Classifieds in the newspaper and have them find two story ideas from the For Sale, Items Wanted or Jobs sections.

STANDARDSKILLS: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, viewing critically and representing creatively.

3. Looking Ahead

In schools, student newspapers often have the problem of being timely. A good way to help solve this problem is to get students in the habit of LOOKING AHEAD at the news. Instead of writing only about things that have already happened, they can write "advance" stories on things about to happen. Look through the school calendar with the class. Discuss coming events. Have each student pick

an event and write an advance of it that would make people interested in attending or taking part.

STANDARDSKILLS: Writing fluently for multiple purposes to produce compositions; employing multiple strategies to construct meaning.

4. Local Personalities *

Newspapers often write interesting profiles of "People in the News." Have students find a profile of a person in the newspaper and skim it for approach. Then have them complete the "People in the News" activity sheet for their neighborhood or school. Have them write out five people they would like to interview—and why. The people can be students, teachers, coaches, administrators, volunteers or support personnel. Have them draw a sketch of one of their interview subjects.

STANDARDSKILLS: Reading and writing fluently, speaking confidently, listening and interacting appropriately, viewing critically and representing creatively. Examples include reporting formally to an audience, debating issues, and interviewing members of the public.

5. All the Senses

Feature writers often try to find unusual, creative ways to write stories. Here's a way for students to practice creativity. Direct the class to pick a photo showing an indoor or outdoor scene in the newspaper. They are going to write a description of the scene based on what is in the picture. The challenge: The description should only tell what the scene is like from a sense other than sight. Start by having students write only what they think they could HEAR in the scene. For added challenge, try other senses like SMELL or TOUCH. Have students read their descriptions aloud to the class.

*Includes activity sheet for students.