

Secondary Language Arts

1. Find a news article written in the past tense. Clip it out of the newspapers and then rewrite it in the present tense.
2. Do timed reading using newspaper articles.
3. Read the editorials in each week's newspaper and keep them. Decide if the writer logically constructed the piece, or if it tends to be emotionally constructed. Classify the editorial as being persuasive, praiseworthy, critical, entertaining, persuasive or a combination.
4. Clip an editorial out of the newspaper. Divide a piece of paper into two columns, labeling one "fact" and the other "opinion." List the information from the editorial in the appropriate columns, and then compare your work against that of another student.
5. Find examples of different newspaper ads that deal with the same product or service, such as grocery stores, restaurants or automobile repair shops. Compare and contrast the ads in terms of layout, prices, claims and the like. Choose the ad in each category that you prefer and state your reasons.
6. Write advertisements for real school events.
7. Select a feature story from the newspaper and then compare and contrast it with the style of a short story.
8. For impromptu writing assignments, use the "pick-a-plot" method. Cut out names, places, dates (motives, weapons, situations and other items as needed), and put each grouping in a paper bag. Choose one of each and use them as the basis for creating a short writing assignment.