

NEWSPAPERING • ABOUT the NEWS



DIRECTIONS: Interview your parents about their newspaper reading habits. Use the following questions:

1. Where do you get your news? Do you read a newspaper?
2. Which newspaper do you read the most regularly?
3. When and where do you read the newspaper?
4. How often do you read it?
5. Do you subscribe or do you buy it at the newsstands?
6. How much does it cost?
7. Why did you choose that particular paper? What do you like best about it?
8. Do you read more than one? If you read another newspaper regularly or occasionally, why do you read that newspaper?
9. Do you ever read an online newspaper on the Web? Which one? Why?

FOLLOW-UP: Discuss what you learn.



DIRECTIONS: Find examples of each type of writing in the sports section. Write the headline and answer the questions:

A STRAIGHT NEWS SPORTS STORY

What is the event?

A FEATURE SPORTS STORY

Who or what is it about?

A PERSONAL SPORTS COLUMN

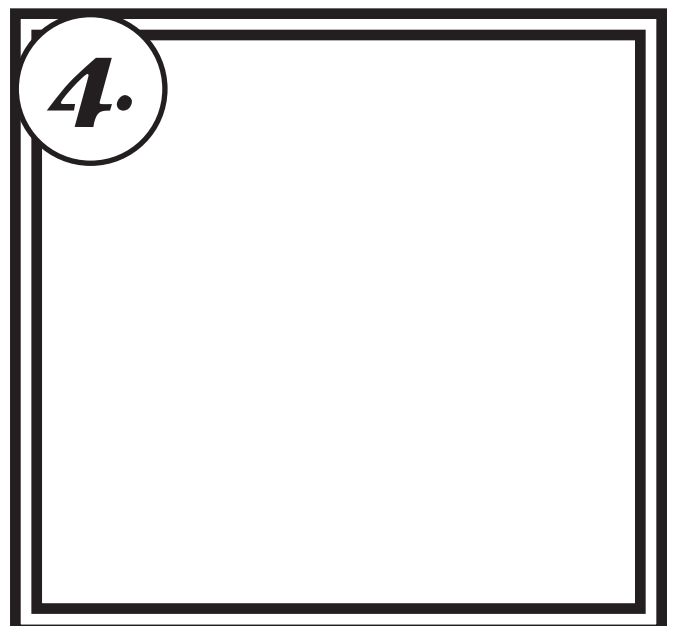
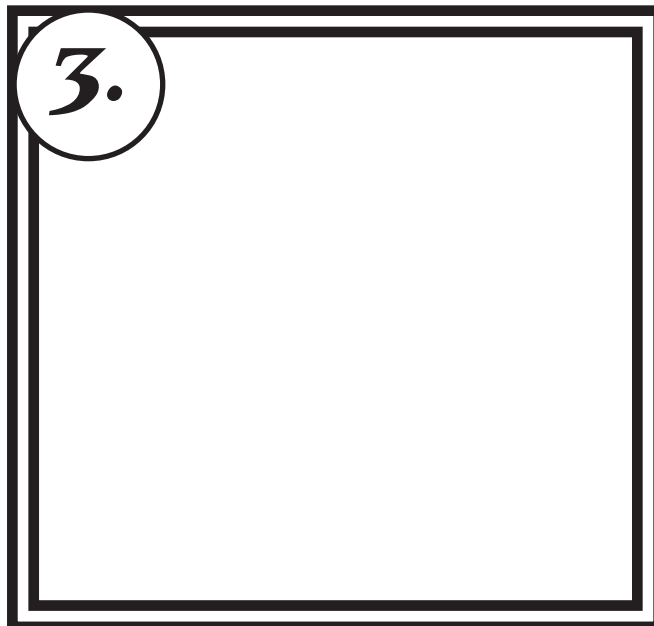
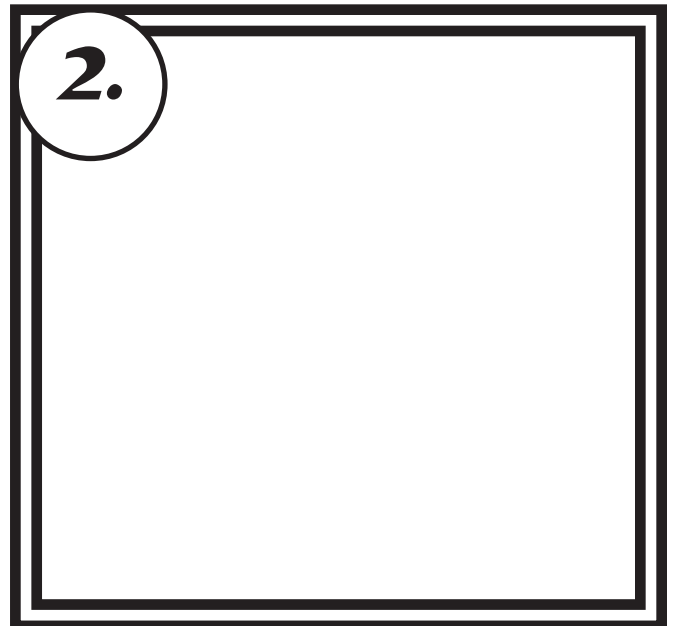
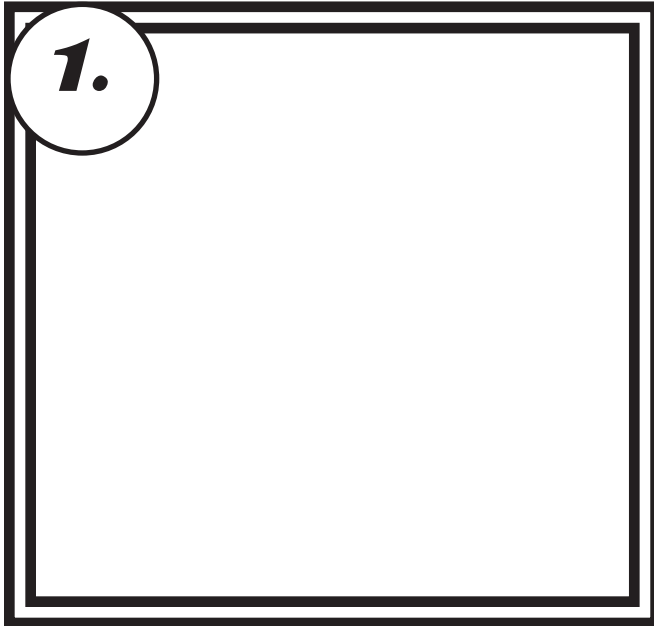
Who wrote it?

A SPORTS PROFILE

Who (or what-it may be a team) is the subject of the profile?



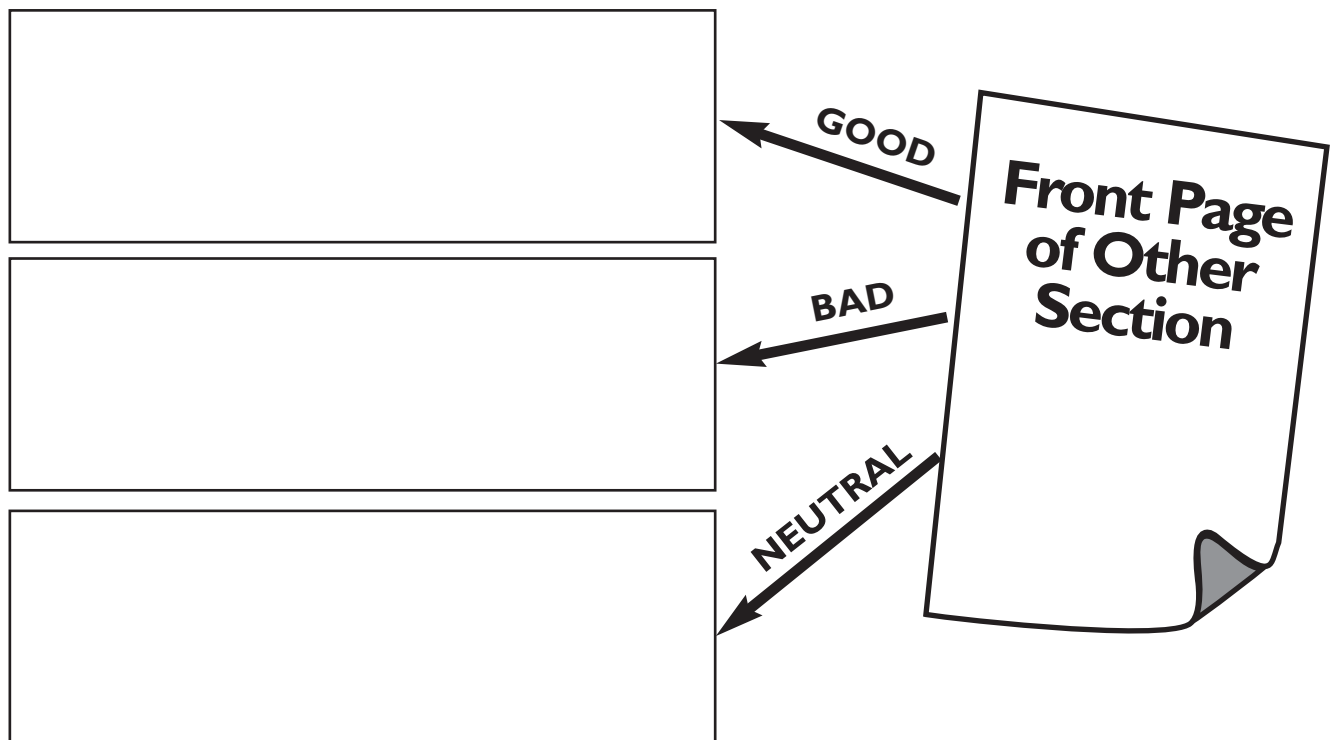
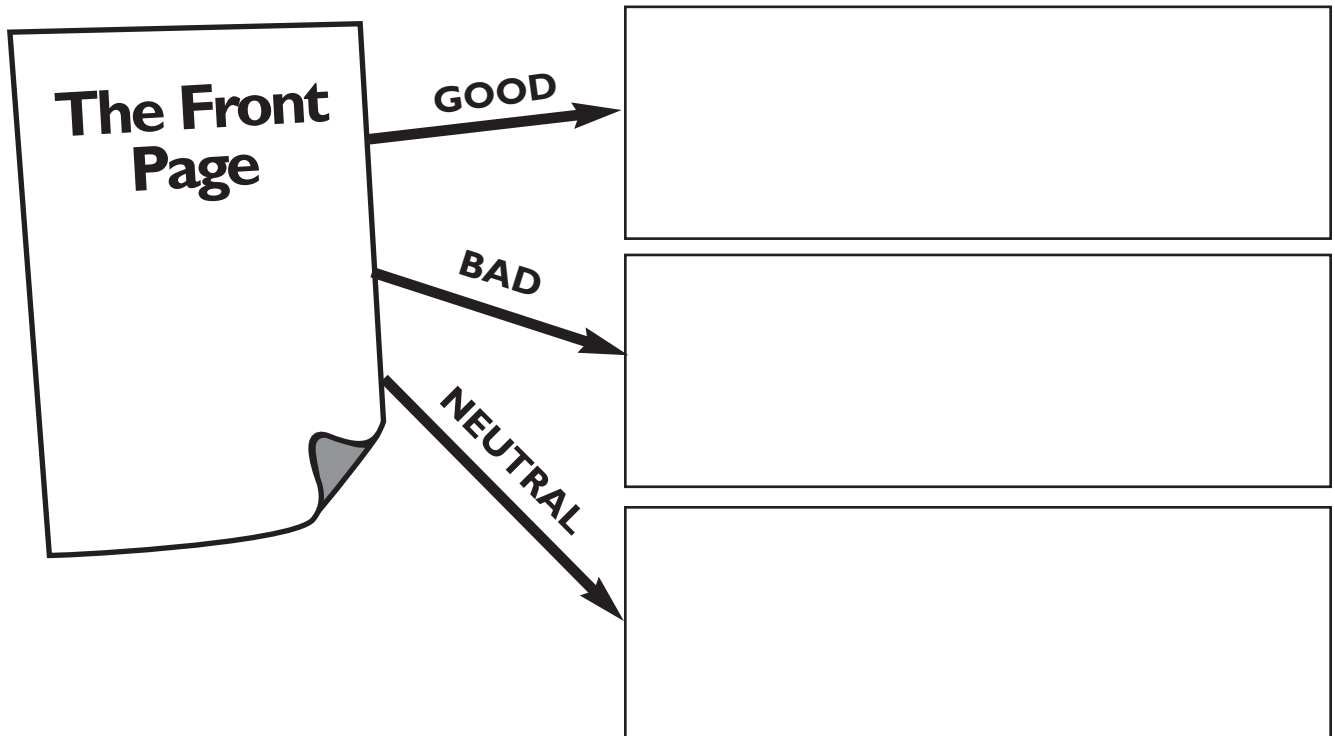
DIRECTIONS: Create your own comic strip. You may choose characters from existing strips or create your own. The strip may involve humor, adventure, drama or anything else. Give your strip a name and sign it. Once you get started, you may create a series of strips!



NEWSPAPERING • MAKING CHOICES about the NEWS: Good, Bad or Neutral



DIRECTIONS: Categorize all the stories on the front page of the newspaper as good news, bad news or neutral news. Repeat the activity using stories on the front page of the local section or the front page of another section.



FOLLOW-UP: Form groups and discuss whether everyone agrees on which stories are good, bad or neutral.

NEWSPAPERING • PUBLIC INTEREST



DIRECTIONS: Find several stories of public interest in various recent newspapers. Use a summarizing phrase to describe each event and write each phrase under the appropriate category below:

EVENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	
Should or Need to Know	Want to Know

The diagram shows a central header box labeled "EVENTS OF PUBLIC INTEREST". Below it are two large empty boxes, one on the left labeled "Should or Need to Know" and one on the right labeled "Want to Know". Two vertical arrows point upwards from the top center of each of these boxes towards the bottom center of the header box. From the top of each vertical arrow, a horizontal arrow points outwards to the left and right edges of the respective box, indicating that events from either category can be placed in the central header.



DIRECTIONS: In the following situations, what would you do? Consider the public's right and need to know and the code of ethics outlined by the Society of Professional Journalists:

Seek Truth and Report It
Minimize Harm
Act Independently
Be Accountable

Case One

You hear on the police scanner that there has been a death in the downtown area. When you reach the site, you learn that the death is a suicide, and that the person committed suicide because he had a terminal disease and was facing a difficult end of life. He had a young pregnant wife with two other children. Is that a story that should be reported? Would it make a difference if the man were the mayor of the town? Would you report all of the details?

Case Two

You get an anonymous phone call saying that a member of the school board was drunk at a party the night before and told everyone he planned to vote against spending more money on improvements to the schools. You are close to deadline on a story about the poor conditions of the schools. Should you include the story? Do you have enough reliable information? What should you do with the information from the phone call? Should you call other people?

Case Three

You are searching for background on the history of a local schoolhouse. You find a story online that someone wrote about the schoolhouse a couple of years ago. You are close to a deadline and everything you want to write is in that story. Can you run the story with your name on it instead of the original author's? (That is plagiarism) Can you rearrange the sentences and paragraphs in a different order and sign your name? (That is also plagiarism.)

Case Four

A child is kidnapped and beaten but finally rescued and returned to her family, but the kidnapper is still at large. The family begs the newspaper not to reveal the child's name because they are afraid the kidnapper may return. The child's name is part of a public record because it is on the police report. Should the newspaper include the name of the child? Would it make a difference if she were an adult?



Case Five

You are on the police beat and you are covering a story about a big drug arrest of several people. Someone approaches you with a tip about how the drug dealers got their supply and you write the story. The district attorney demands that you reveal the name of the person who tipped you off. Should you reveal the name? The D.A. threatens to put you in jail if you don't give the name. Do you still keep the source confidential?

Case Six

You, a sports reporter, are hanging out at a football practice at a local university. One of the players, who does not know who you are, comes over after practice and you start to chat. He tells you that the coach has been stealing supplies and behaving badly with the cheerleaders, and the player thinks he should be fired. Should you tell him you are a reporter? Should you run the story? What if you tell him that you are a reporter, and he begs you not to reveal who told you about the coach? If you keep his confidentiality, you only have one unattributed source for a potentially libelous story. But what if the story is true?

Case Seven

You are a photojournalist (photographer-reporter) covering a fire and someone runs out of the building with her clothes on fire. Should you take a photo of the person or drop your camera to help her? If you take a photo, should the photo run in the newspaper?

Case Eight

You are the editor of the news section. You are about to run a story about pollution coming from a shoe factory in your town. You get a call from the manager of advertising sales at the newspaper, who tells you that the shoe company will pull out its advertising if you run the story. Do you run it anyway? What do you tell the advertising sales manager? What if the shoe company is owned by a friend of the person who owns the newspaper? Do you play down (or drop) the story?



DIRECTIONS: Choose an eye-catching ad for a product or service that interests you. Answer the questions:

**Who's
selling it?**

**When
and where can
you buy it?**

**How
much does it
cost?**

**What's
for sale?**

**Why do you
want it?**

**How can or
should you use it?**

FOLLOW-UP: Look beyond the facts. Identify words included in the ad to persuade you to buy the product or service. Does the ad increase your interest in the product or service?



DIRECTIONS: Prepare for a tour of your local newspaper. Ask and record answers to the questions below and think of other questions you want answered.

1. How does the story get placed into the page? Does the reporter or editor do it?

2. How do the pages come together and how are the ads placed in the newspaper? Who does that?

3. How are the pages printed on paper? Where does the paper come from?

4. How are all the pages folded together and bundled into piles of newspapers?

5. How do the papers arrive at the delivery trucks? Who drives the trucks? What time do the trucks have to leave to deliver a morning paper?

Other questions:





DIRECTIONS: Schedule a tour of your local newspaper. Record the steps from deadline to delivery that you learn from the tour.

3.	6.
2.	5.
1.	4.

NEWSPAPERING • PRINT and BROADCAST MEDIA



DIRECTIONS: List the advantages and disadvantages of the three news media shown below:

TV

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Radio

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Newspaper

Advantages

Disadvantages

NEWSPAPERING • PRINT, BROADCAST and the INTERNET



DIRECTIONS: Read a local news story that interests you and watch a local TV channel for a report on the same event. Also, check the newspaper's and TV station's Web sites for information on the event.

Using the graphic organizer below, record what you learned from each source.

	Newspaper story: _____	TV news: _____	Internet site: _____
WHAT			
WHO			
WHEN			
WHERE			
WHY			
HOW			

FOLLOW-UP: After completing your table, write a summary that evaluates each source. Which gives the most complete information? Which is easiest to access? Which includes more facts? Were any facts included in all sources? Share with your classmates.



DIRECTIONS: List the advantages and disadvantages of the Internet as a source of news.

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES