

More on Comparing Newspapers and Communities: Target Dating

Common Core State Standards (standards in reading; others apply):

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.1](#)
Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5](#)
Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9](#)
Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Common Core State Standards (standards in history, social studies; others apply):

- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.5](#)
Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally).
- [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7](#)
Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

Revised Bloom's Taxonomy:

Cognitive Process: *Inferring* requires drawing a logical conclusion from presented information (*drawn from local and another, chosen newspaper*).

Knowledge dimension: *Factual (terms), Conceptual (comparisons); Metacognitive (self-assessment or self-evaluation)*.

Preparation:

- When newspapers published only in print, students wrote newspapers to obtain single copies of the print editions on a chosen or “targeted” date. Requests were made at least two weeks ahead of the date, and Newspaper in Education managers who agreed to participate mailed the newspapers to individual students who requested them. Other approaches to access newspapers should be used now: print, digital editions, apps and more.
- Comparisons remain valuable and work best with students who are familiar with their local newspapers and the different formats the newspaper uses for distributing information. Now, students may compare local newspapers with digital editions of their local and other newspapers. When directed, students may bring print editions to class from places they travel. They may ask family members and friends who live away to mail print editions or have family members and friends bring print editions when they visit.

Newsstands also provide copies of different newspapers.

Prepared and shared by Diane Goold, NIE Director, *St. Joseph News-Press*
(*adapated*)

Activity: Compare information from the *local paper* and another chosen or “targeted” newspaper. Consider the following approaches.

General information

- Write the name of the Target Date newspaper:
- Write the city and state where the Target Date newspaper is published.
- How many sections are in the Target Date newspaper? How many sections (A,B,C,D, etc.) How many sections with FLAGS, such as Local, Features, Sports and Classifieds?
- Is the newspaper published daily or weekly?
- Is the Target Date newspaper bigger or smaller than the local newspaper?
- Indicate how the appearances of the newspapers are alike and how they are different.

Front Page Comparison

- Write headlines of any stories that are shared by *both* papers.
- Write the headlines of local stories on the front page of *each* paper.
- Write the headlines of other stories on the front page of *each* paper.
- How are the two front pages alike? How are they different?

Other sections - indicate how they are alike and how they are different:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| • Weather | • Political cartoon |
| • Obituaries | • Opinions |
| • Sports | • Movie listings |
| • Comics | • Other |

Advertisements

- Compare some of the retail ads. Do you find different stores, restaurants, etc. in the Target Date newspaper? Make a list of the differences.
- How do the classified ads compare? Are there more ads in one paper? Do they advertise different things?
- Find the most unusual item to buy in both newspapers' classified ads.

Local events

- Identify at least one topic from each paper (local and Target Date newspapers) that has received a lot of coverage.
- Explain how the topics and coverage of the topics affect the newspapers' communities - good or bad.

On your own

- Find other ways to compare your newspapers. Share what you learned with a classmate.

Enrichment activity - take a trip

- Plan a trip to your new community based on the information you have read in the newspaper.
- What will you see while you're there?
- Where will you stay?
- What restaurants will you eat at?
- How far is the location from your hometown? Will you fly or drive to get there?
- What states will you have to travel through?
- What else would you like to learn about the community?

Evaluation:

Answer questions after completing the comparison of newspapers:

1. What did you know about the place where the chosen newspaper was published before reading the newspaper?
2. What did you learn from reading the newspaper?
3. Where would you look for more information about the place where the newspaper is published and the newspaper itself?

Follow up:

- If a newspaper or a family member or friend provided a newspaper, have the students who received it write a thank-you letter to the person who sent or brought them their Target Date newspapers. In the letter, have students indicate some of the things they found interesting about the paper and its community.

Young readers may work as whole class or in teams. Teachers may use interactive whiteboards to model and/or select some but not all of the questions on the worksheets below designed for K-3 students.

Newspaper Comparison Activity

Grades K-3 activities

Newspaper #1 (local newspaper):

1. Copy the name of your local newspaper here.
2. How many pages are in this newspaper?
3. How many photos and graphics appear on the first page?
4. What is the warmest temperature or biggest number on the weather page?
5. Copy the name of your favorite comic strip or sports team from the ones in the newspaper.
6. Are there any photos or illustrations of an animal in the paper? What is the animal?
7. What do you like best about your local newspaper?

