STUDENTS MAKE DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS

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FAKE NEWS AMONG TEENAGERS

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JOURNALIST SKILLS IN THE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

A student-generated newspaper for a real audience engages students in the real process of asking questions, writing articles and editing.

It is a beneficial way of motivating students to create pictures, stories, and features while covering topics they care about.

Undoubtedly, newspaper-creation projects and related activities can be incorporated into different classroom contexts.

BENEFITS OF CREATING A STUDENT-GENERATED DIGITAL NEWSPAPER

Builds a classroom community Works for a variety of abilities

Creates an authentic resource

Increases student motivation & vocabulary

Provides interaction

Provides practice in English

Develops 21st-century skill

(Lynch, 2006; Ono & Ishihara, 2010; Herrington & Moran, 2012; Hoyt, 2013)

ACTIVITIES FOR DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS

Online research

Surveys

Interviews

Reviews

Writing captions

Writing articles

Making collages

WRITING CAPTIONS

/A CAPTION IS A TITLE OR BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF AN IMAGE/

Ask questions to describe the photo.

- Who is in the photo?
- How old are they?
- Where are they?
- What are they doing?
- How do they feel?

Review basic sentence structure.

IDENTIFYING NEWSPAPER SECTIONS

A SMALL-SCALE PROJECT/ GROUP WORK

1. Every group is provided with different sections of various newspapers/their online versions.

2. Every group works on: examining the newspaper; identifying the section /world news, local news, editorials, sports, weather, classified ads, etc./ and write a description of their sections and present it to the others. They can focus on the following: • How many pages are in that section? • What kinds of stories are on each page? • Which stories have photographs? • Which story do you think is the most important story for this section? Why? • Which of the stories is the most interesting to you? Why ?

3. Students can be asked to compare the same section (culture, national news, etc.) from two different newspapers. They should also include their ideas about why different newspapers focus on different things They can also do an oral report about the newspaper/s they prefer and why.)

WRITING LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ask the students to find the Letters to the Editor page of the newspaper.

Have students read a couple of Letters to the Editor and then discuss them.

They might consider the following: • Was the letter well-written and easy to understand? • Was the letter interesting? Why or why not? • Did the writer of the letter express an opinion? If so, what is the writer's opinion? • Does the writer give facts to support his/her opinion? • Do you believe the writer of the letter? Do you agree with the writer? Why or why not?

Ask students to write their own individual Letters to the Editor/they can select a newspaper article from the newspapers used in this activity. The story can be one that interests the students or makes them react in a positive or negative way.

WRITING A NEWS STORY

1. Students must choose an event they are familiar with or something that interests them, such as a sports match, a competition, a school activity, a local celebration or an event that has recently taken place or even one that will happen soon.

2. To help students, some questions can be written on the board. • What is the event? What happened/will happen because of this event? • When did/will the event take place? • Who took part/will be taking part in the event? • Where did/will the event take place? • How…(there could be various "how" questions.) • Why: Why did/will the event happen? Why did/will the participants do what they did/will be doing?

INTERVIEWS

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Students can practice forming questions and answers in pairs.

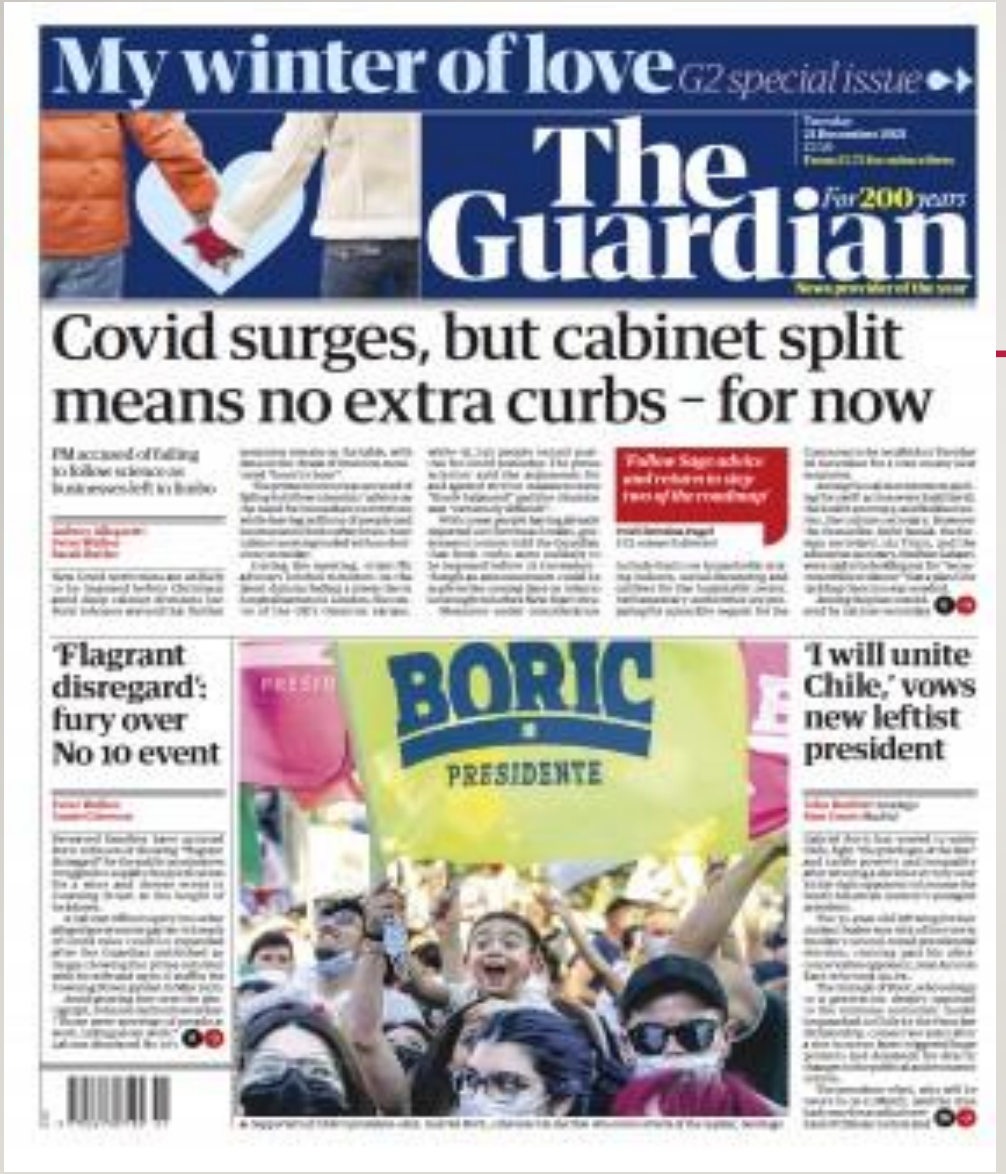
They might give oral reports as well as written reports of their interviews.

If possible, they can record audio or video interviews. (Do not record anyone without permission.) After the interview, students should carefully listen to the recording several times, writing down the exact words that were said. Students can make some corrections and add to your notes any relevant information.

Sample Interview Questions – from "ENGLISH TEACHING FORUM" N 4

Tell students to choose among them or to adapt the questions to fit the person they plan to interview.

1. What is your full name? Is there a story about why you were given this name?
2. Where were you born? Where have you lived most of your life?
3. What do you like about living in this city?
4. What are your favourite things to do on a weekend or holiday?
5. Do you have a favourite actor, author, or musician? Why do you like that person?
6. What type of music do you enjoy most: rock, folk, classical?
7. What is you favourite subject (class) in school?
8. What do you plan to do after graduation?
9. What would you like to be doing ten years from now?
10. Do you have a hero? Who is it? Why do you like this person?
11. If you won the lottery, what would you do with the money?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CREATING A SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

Stage 1 - PLANNING:
Discussing the format; the name; the audience; the newspaper sections; the layout;
Stage 2 - WRITING DRAFTS
Each section will have different types of tasks. For example, students who need to interview people will have to write interview questions. Some students may be drawing or writing comic strips. Some may need to review other newspapers or written sources for information to write about. Some may need to collect information about local events. It is very important that students write their own material and not copy something from the Internet
Stage 3: MAKING CORRECTIONS TO THE DRAFT
Students can get some feedback from other students or their teachers / discussing the contents; suggesing corrections in vocabulary or grammar/. Students should be encouraged to do as much rewriting as possible.
Stage 4: COMPILING THE NEWSPAPER

OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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