



# T U T O R S ' T I P S

## N E W S P A P E R S

For many literacy tutors, the newspaper is a most valuable resource. It provides a cornucopia of cheap, current, adult, varied material that may be used for every level of adult literacy student. From the headlines to the classified ads, the newspaper offers a myriad of possibilities for lesson development.

The first step is to think critically about what different newspapers offer. Choose the paper carefully to match your student's needs and interests.

*For example:*

**The local paper** - is free, contains information from the local community, usually has very short articles, is quite easy to read

**The state daily paper** - appeals to readers in both city and country, has more variety and choice, is often written for a higher reading age

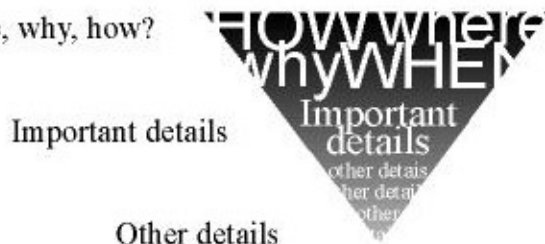
**The tabloid paper** - has very broad appeal, lots of photographs, more magazine style / gossip articles, short and easy to read stories, plenty of sport

**The national paper** - more international news, aimed at professional and business readers, suitable for students seeking in depth reading of issues

Once you have selected a suitable newspaper, it is important to familiarise your student with the layout and content. Discuss the inverted pyramid style of writing commonly used for news stories. This means the lead paragraph contains the most important facts. Other details can then be edited from the end of the story if there is limited space available.

### THE INVERTED PYRAMID

Lead: Who, what, when, where, why, how?



Because newspapers are cheap, you can adapt articles simply by cutting and pasting to make the length shorter and to lessen the level of difficulty. It is easy to focus on the news stories as stimulating texts for reading and discussion, but don't ignore the less obvious sections which may have even more appeal to some students. In this issue of Tutor Tips, suggestions are offered on how to fully utilise your newspaper in lesson planning.

*Reference: Using Newspapers with Adults Kit, produced by Newspapers in Education Dept. of Qld Newspapers, authors Jeanette Daly and Margaret Wagstaff, 1990*

# ▶ Ideas for Exercises

## Headlines

- > find rhyming words and patterns
- > look for double meanings
- > cut up words and reassemble
- > match headlines to articles
- > predict story topic
- > write own headline for article

## News articles

- > compare front page news in different papers
- > find news of local, state, national and international interest
- > identify main points made in article
- > analyse to discover inverted pyramid style of writing
- > role play interview and write news article

## Letters to the editor

- > explore genre / style (concise, to the point, topical), length (< 300 words)
- > read related news article
- > find letters for and against issue
- > write and send own letter

## Editorial

- > analyse as an example of opinion or persuasive writing
- > discuss issues raised
- > write own opinion about editorial topic
- > look for a news article about this issue
- > list possible resolutions to issue
- > relate editorial cartoon to editorial

## Photographs

- > discuss importance of photo to story
- > discuss feelings aroused by photo
- > match captions to photographs
- > discuss if caption suits photo
- > write own caption
- > write own article from photo and caption

## Columns

- > find regular columns
- > read for a few days
- > discuss differences of style

- > discuss the personalities of columnists
- > write what you like or dislike about the column

## Feature article

- > understand difference between news and feature article (written to entertain as well as inform, contains more detail than a news article)
- > find introduction, main points, conclusion
- > be the editor - improve the article
- > differentiate between fact and fiction

## Sports articles

- > do a survey of sports to see which get the most coverage in different papers
- > list special sport vocabulary used
- > look up dictionary to write meanings
- > find facts and opinions
- > look for words which give extra impact
- > analyse Form Guide and pick favourite horse

## Classified ads

- > understand abbreviations
- > work out costs
- > write your own ad
- > use index to find listing
- > use alphabetical order to find names in birth notices
- > find a job ad and write application

## Display ads

- > find product being advertised
- > discuss target audience
- > discuss layout of ad
- > discuss appeal of ad
- > list facts stated in ad
- > list opinions stated in ad
- > find an ad endorsed by a famous person
- > write your own ad

## Comic strips

- > collect favourite comic strip for a week
- > discuss progression of story
- > understand message
- > understand double meanings / idioms, reassemble comic strips cut up
- > write own captions
- > add another frame to comic strip

## Entertainment

- > read TV guide
- > circle favourite shows
- > find ad for film and write where and when it is showing
- > write opinion about accuracy of book or film reviews
- > write own review
- > list what is on this weekend

# Student Worksheet 1

## Understanding the Front Page of the Newspaper

> **Using the front page of your daily paper, identify:**

- The masthead (name of the newspaper)
- The puff box (index highlighting the main stories)
- Heading for the page 1 lead (usually has the largest type on the page)
- Byline (gives the name of the reporter who wrote the story)
- Page 1 write off (part of a major report, detailed at greater length inside the paper)
- Index box (points to sections and features within the paper)
- Display advertisement (prime spot on front page, costing extra)
- Weather
- Dateline (says where story comes from eg. SYDNEY)
- Human Interest Photograph (front page photo is often bright and happy to greet readers at breakfast or dramatic to attract attention)

> **Find examples of these different parts of the paper. Write the purpose of each one.**

News article	
Column	
Feature article	
Editorial	
Letter to Editor	
Review	
Cartoon	
Sports article	

> **Use the index to find four other different parts of the newspaper. List them and the section of the paper in which they are found.**

<i>Part of the paper</i>	<i>Section</i>

> **Comparisons**

List the topics covered in two different papers such as state, daily or tabloid  
Discuss or write what this tells you about these papers.

	<i>Topic Paper A</i>	<i>Topic Paper B</i>
Front page news		
Editorial		
Main sports stories		



## Student Worksheet 2

### Understanding the News

- > Read this article from the Sunday Mail, 8 October 2000. Refer to the article to answer these questions.
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*We do not have permission to reproduce this article for internet viewing. However, newspapers are available at your local library and the State Library of Queensland. This article can be found in the Sunday Mail, 8 October 2000 on page 34.*

- > Write your answers to these questions about the news article.
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1. Explain the use of word "OZ-own" in the headline.
2. Why have these number plates been made?
3. What type of person is likely to bid for these number plates?
4. What is different about these OZ plates?
5. Why do you think the plates are being auctioned rather than sold for a set price?
6. What is a dot.com entrepreneur?
7. If you had the number plate BEAMER, what sort of car might you drive?
8. Which number plate mentioned in the story would suit a golfer?

- > Find these words in the article. Circle the 3 words that are closest in meaning.
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exclusive      big      personalised      limited      rare      status

- > Find words from the article which are opposite in meaning to:
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last _____	closed _____
bought _____	exclude _____
common _____	small _____

- > Change these root words by adding letters to the beginning and/or end, eg. un, dis, ing, ed, ion, less.

Example: Root word: Satisfy - satisfied, satisfaction, unsatisfied, satisfying

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interest	_____
expect	_____
limit	_____
exhibit	_____

- > If you could choose your own 7 letter number plate, what would it be?
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