Dear Teachers,

Welcome to your current events bundle! These worksheets contain great ways to help students read, understand, and summarize news stories. Utilizing current events in the classroom helps students better understand their communities, new perspectives, and real-world events. With so many news outlets available, it’s important to give students the tools they need to determine accuracy and credibility. Using our savvy news reader tips, students will learn how to determine if an article is trustworthy.

Tips for classroom use:

• If you assign a weekly current events assignment, give students the option to use one of our two article summary worksheets to get started.

• Begin a lesson on news literacy. Use our tips to get started and have students complete the corresponding worksheet to evaluate an article’s credibility.

The Week Junior is an awesome current events resource for kids!

Give students a news resource they’ll love! The Week Junior is a kid-friendly current events magazine that features sections on trending news, new books and movies, sports and culture, recipes and craft projects, and so much more. There’s something for every kid. The Week Junior is committed to publishing trustworthy, accurate, and unbiased content to enable students to form and express their own opinions, making it perfect to introduce in your classroom.
Summarizing an Article

My Article Title: __________________________

Source: __________________________________

Author: __________________________________

Publication Date: _________________________

Who is the article about?

What happened?

When did the event or events occur?

Where did it happen?

Why is it important?

How did it happen?

Summarize the article in 2-3 sentences:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
How To Be a Savvy News Reader

Reading about people, events, and happenings in the news is a great way to learn about the world around you. As you read, it’s important to evaluate the content for accuracy. This is known as practicing news literacy, which is the ability to determine what news is fact-based and what to trust based on credibility.

1. Identify the type of article.
   First, aim to identify what type of information you’re reading. A news article should present both sides of a story, with sources or quotes from people that back up those statements. This type of story differs from an opinion article, which is typically written by one person and gives their point of view on a topic. Opinion stories can be great to read, but it’s important to know that they may present only one side of a story.

2. Analyze the article’s purpose.
   The purpose of a news article is to give readers the facts of an occurrence. It is not trying to convince a reader to believe something. This makes the story credible. If both sides of an occurrence are shared, you know the writer is not trying to keep information from you or change your opinion. Other articles may try to get you to believe something, such as why you should support a cause. That doesn’t mean you shouldn’t read those stories. They can be interesting. What’s important is that you realize stories can have different purposes. Knowing a story’s purpose can help you interpret it.

3. Compare articles.
   If you’re reading a news story but are wondering if it’s presenting all the facts accurately, you can try doing some “lateral reading.” This is when you read about the same topic from a different news source. Are those stories similar with the same facts presented? Or does one story leave out some facts or tell only one side? You’ll have to read closely, since each news source may cover a subject in a slightly different way and still be accurate.

4. Do a quick search.
   To verify that a news company is reputable, learn more about it. A media outlet that aims to present unbiased news will most likely have a mission statement in the “About” section of its website, which should include the organization’s purpose and guidelines about fairness and accuracy.

© 2023 by The Week Junior. Teachers may make copies of this page to distribute to their students.
Directions: Choose an article you’d like to analyze for accuracy. Begin with a summary of the article to understand the article. Then, use the “Be a Savvy News Reader” tips to guide your thinking to complete the steps below and test for accuracy.

Summarize the article in your own words.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

1. Identify the type of article.
What type of story are you reading? Is it a news article or an opinion article?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

2. Analyze the article’s purpose.
Why do you think the author wrote this article? What sides of the story are presented?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. Compare articles.
Do similar stories present the same facts? How does this article differ?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

4. Do a quick search.
What did you find out about the source of the article? Does their mission statement align with providing fair and accurate news?
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________