

**STUDENT REPORTERS**

(45 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students identify the parts of a newspaper article and write their own article.

MATERIALS

A local or national newspaper (if possible, get copies for your entire class)

GET READY

- ✓ Bring in a local or national newspaper and pick a news article to share with the class.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Describe to your students the various parts that make up a newspaper article: *The headline is meant to grab the reader's attention, the lead paragraph contains specific details and important information about the article, the body gives supporting information and details about the lead, and the conclusion sums up the content of the article.*
- ✓ Using the article you selected before, explain how the different parts of the news article fit the descriptions you provided: *See how this headline is catchy? See how most of the important information is in the lead paragraph?*
- ✓ Give copies of the newspaper to your students (if you were able to get copies) and have them examine an article and identify its various parts. If you do not have additional copies of the newspaper, break your students up into groups of three or four and give an article from your newspaper to each group.
- ✓ Have your students label the parts of their article (in pen or marker).

- ✓ Invite individuals or groups to read their article aloud, identify its various parts, and explain why they labeled the parts as they did.
- ✓ Tell your students that each of them is going to write their own article and in doing so the class will generate its own newspaper. Give the students some of the following options for their assignment:
 - ✓ Write an article based on an event in the classroom, school, or community.
 - ✓ Write an article based on an event or incident that occurred in a book the class read.
 - ✓ Create an article based on a picture selected from a magazine or newspaper.
- ✓ Give your students a few days to complete their articles. Then have your students share their articles with the rest of the class. Compile all the articles into a class newspaper to be brought home.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What does a newspaper article have to have in order for people to want to read it?*
- ★ *Why is the article headline so important?*
- ★ *What happens if you have a weak lead paragraph? What about a weak body or conclusion?*
- ★ *Was it difficult writing an interesting article?*
- ★ *What did you learn from writing your article?*