

Part 3: Lessons for Healthy NewsWorks newspapers

Lesson 9: LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Essential question: What do YOU want to say to your newspaper editor and staff?

Overall goal: Have students "talk back" appropriately about a salient topic, or suggest a health-related article.

Target skills: (Draw), write, develop, and organize an opinion piece, supported with facts and details.

Objectives for Beginning Health Advocates:

SWBAT:

- Brainstorm responses to a healthy newspaper article or topic.
- Illustrate a response to the article.

Beginning Health Advocates activity outline

1. Read aloud one or more healthy newspaper articles. Choose an article that elicits strong feelings and responses from the students.
2. Use the story web brainstorm sheet to generate a model for students.
3. Students can use the story web brainstorm sheets and picture writing paper to respond to the article. The focus is on students' responses to the article, not on summarizing it.
4. Use picture paper to write a letter to the editor about this article. Students write a letter suggesting a topic for another article.

Healthy NewsWorks-provided resources

1. Response to newspaper article handout.

Select CCSS/PA Core ELA Alignment

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.2/ PA CC.1.5.2.B: IDENTIFY KEY IDEAS IN READ-ALOUDS
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.8/ PA CC.1.4.2.W: GATHER INFO
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.8: DESCRIBE EVIDENCE
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.6: WRITE COMPLETE SENTENCES

National Health Standards Alignment

- STANDARD 4: Communicate for health
- Additional alignment depends on article chosen

Objectives for Advanced Health Advocates:

SWBAT:

- Brainstorm (alone or in pairs) response to a healthy newspaper article, or map out ideas about a health topic you think is important.
- Draft a brief letter to the editor, containing a single, coherent opinion.
- Provide at least one fact to back up this opinion.

Advanced Health Advocates activity outline

1. Have students choose a healthy newspaper article that elicits strong feelings and responses.
2. Students identify a main idea in this article, OR they generate a topic that they would like to see reflected in a future issue of a HNW newspaper.
3. See also sample letters to the editor.

Healthy NewsWorks-provided resources

1. Letter to the editor handout.
2. Sample letters to the editor.
3. My letter to the editor handout.

Select CCSS/PA Core ELA Alignment

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.3/ PA CC.1.2.6.C: ANALYZE KEY DETAILS
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.1/ PA CC.1.4.6.G: WRITE ARGUMENTS
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.9/ PA CC.1.4.6.S: GET EVIDENCE FROM TEXTS CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.6.1/ PA CC.1.2.6.B: CITE EVIDENCE
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.4: WRITE APPROPRIATELY FOR TASK, AUDIENCE, PURPOSE
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.5/ PA CC.1.4.6.T: PLAN, REVISE, EDIT
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National Health Standards Alignment

- STANDARD 4: Communicate for health
- Additional alignment depends on article chosen