

NEWSPAPER WEDNESDAY
(revised for Spring 2010)



Objectives:

To improve the students' science literacy and to learn about current events in science.

Tasks:

1. Select a science-related article from a newspaper or magazine (no online sources).
 - a. The **article** must be dated 2009 onwards and must be from its original printed source (no photocopies). Article must be cohesive and long enough so that you can write a complete summary and critique about them. Advertisements, photo captions, and question & answer materials are NOT articles.
 - b. Cut it out neatly and then tape or glue the article to your spiral notebook. The articles will be placed at the back of the spiral starting on the last page.
 - c. Make sure no part of the article sticks out of the notebook.
 - d. **Write** the source and date of the article on the top of the notebook page.
 - e. **Highlight** at least five vocabulary words that are new to you.
2. On the page/s following the article, do the following: (**MUST BE TYPED and in complete sentences**)
Label each item:
 - a. Vocabulary
 - i. Choose five of the words that you highlighted. None of these words should have been defined for you by the article.
 - ii. List them in alphabetical order and define each in your own words.
 - b. Content Knowledge
 - i. Identify the article's main idea.
 - ii. Write at least four to five sentences of your summary of the article.
 - c. Critique/Evaluation
 - i. Write one to two paragraphs of your critique of the article's *contents*. The critique should be about what was written and **not** about *how* it was written.
3. Turn in/Show your work for grading on the first full Wednesday of every month. For planning purposes, the dates are listed below:

a. January 13 (note new date)	c. March 3	e. May 5
b. February 3	d. April 7	
4. Be prepared to be called to share your work with your classmates.

Rubric:

	Far Below Expectations – 1 point	Below Expectations – 2 points	Meets or Exceeds Expectations – 3 points
Article	The article does not meet more than one of the expectations listed in Task 1.	The article does not meet one of the expectations listed in Task 1.	The article is from a reputable source and meets all the requirements listed in Task 1.
Vocabulary	The words are not listed in alpha order and/or one or more words missing/not defined in the student's own words.	The words are not listed in alpha order or one word is missing/not defined in the student's own words.	The words are listed in alpha order. Each word is correctly defined in the student's own words.
Content Knowledge	The student does not grasp the information in the article.	The student shows basic knowledge of the article.	The student shows full knowledge of the article.
Critique / Evaluation	The evaluation is difficult to follow and/or incomplete.	The student jumps around and/or fails to elaborate and is uncomfortable with the content.	The student presents the evaluation in a logical and objective viewpoint and clearly has knowledge of the article's contents.
Neatness and Legibility*	Work is illegible or not typed.	Work has one area that is sloppy or not labeled.	Work is neatly done and typed.
English Mechanics	Work has several spelling and/or grammar errors.	Work has some spelling and/or grammar errors.	Work has no spelling or grammar errors.

*Points earned *only if* vocabulary, summary, and evaluation are present.