JEA CURRICULUM CHATTER

Weekly ideas, lessons, activities and more for the journalism classroom

This week's focus: Localization

THE STORY:
Wildfires in Canada
cause air quality problems in U.S.

Over the summer, a haze covered much of the East Coast and parts of the Midwest and South because of several wildfires which continued to burn in parts of Canada. Many state officials warned residents of air quality concerns. The full story from NPR is HERE.

THE LESSON: PROXIMITY

Proximity is just one of the fundamental elements of news. The closer events happen to your readers, the more newsworthy they are (see a full lesson from JEA.org about identifying all of the elements of news to the right).

Using the story linked above, what if your school isn't directly affected by the path of the smoke but you still want to cover it for your readers? That's where **localization** comes in. Reporters can find people who are or could be affected by these remote events in order to make a story more proximal for their readers. For example, some students at your school may have underlying conditions which make it difficult to breathe. What might bad air quality feel like for those students?

In small groups, take 10 minutes to have students brainstorm ways to localize this story for their readers.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG
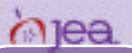
News Judgment

Description
This lesson defines news judgment and eight news values used for determining whether something is newsworthy. Following a presentation on news judgment, students will analyze current news stories based on the eight news values and/or apply the news values to their previously published story and to one idea for a future story. The lesson concludes with a test that requires students to appropriately identify the news value and potential sources for which they will write questions pertaining to the news value chosen.

Objectives
- Students will define news judgment and apply the generally known news values.
- Students will analyze and evaluate news articles, determining what news values are emphasized.
- Students will demonstrate ability to consider news values in their past and future writings.

The link
The link to the full lesson is HERE. NOTE: This lesson is available free to **everyone** during the dates listed at the top of this page. Want to have access all the time? If you're not a member yet, consider joining JEA today for access to all of the resources.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN JEA NOW

Bell Ringer Activity

Daily Oral Language (DOL)
Jim Streisel, MJE, (below) likes to reinforce style and grammar rules by doing good old fashioned Daily Oral Language (DOL). While not without its flaws, Streisel said DOL is especially useful to teach passive voice and agreement.

How to do it
Write a sentence on the board that contains multiple errors (whatever skills you're reinforcing). Students write the sentence exactly the way they see it and then rewrite the sentence correcting it for any style and grammar errors they find. Once complete, the teacher calls on random students to allow them one correction each. Students should use their style manuals and any previous DOL exercises to help make corrections.

THE JEA FACE BEHIND THE LESSON

Jim Streisel, MJE, The HiLite, Carmel (Ind.) H.S.

"Style never goes out of style (chuckle). It's important to establish and reinforce local and AP style guidelines throughout the year to minimize silly errors. That attention to detail will build and maintain credibility over time."

JEA members, I want YOU to share your awesome ideas with journalism teachers around the country. Fill out this GOOGLE FORM to be a part of this newsletter.

Style Time

TITLES

Writers should include a person's title on their first reference in a story. Here are some guidelines to follow:

Titles of three or fewer words go in front of the person's first and last name with no commas:

air traffic controller Jon Smith

A title with four or more words comes after the person's name and is separated by commas:

Jon Smith, video game designer and sophomore,