

Classroom Connections

Newspaper activities using themes from **USA WEEKEND Magazine**



ANNUAL SONGWRITING CONTEST LESSON 1: THE IMPACT OF MUSIC

Learning standards: skimming and scanning for information

Each year, USA WEEKEND Magazine holds its Songwriting Contest for Teens. This year, they are partnering with *Billboard* magazine. Consider entering this competition. Think about the ways in which music defines our culture and is part of our economy. We buy CDs, watch videos, listen to the radio, attend concerts, and buy instruments and sheet music. We remember events in our lives, often because we hear music that reminds us of a specific time. Take some time to skim through the newspaper searching for mention of music or its impact. Note any parts of the newspaper that may involve music.







CLICK ON For contest details or to enter, go to:
www.usaweekend.com.

THINKSMART: APPLIANCES THAT SAVE MONEY

Learning standard: exploring energy conservation

Home heating bills may be higher than ever this winter. With that in mind, many consumers are seeking ways to cut back on their energy use. Nowadays, people can buy appliances that are energy-efficient and cost less to use. What items can you find mentioned in the newspaper that tout their energy-saving or cost-efficient attributes? Identify several and write brief descriptions of what you found. What are some of the ways you think that you can conserve energy this winter?

LEARNING KEY:

-  Social Studies
-  Math
-  Character Education
-  Language Arts
-  Science
-  Web Site Resources

COVER STORY: THE NEXT BIG THINGS*

Learning standards: skimming, analyzing

The article predicts what's going to be hot in entertainment, in gadgets, and even among people in 2006. Complete the activity sheet on the right to show what you think will be fascinating in the year ahead.

*See Activity Sheet

JANUARY'S THEME: OLYMPICS

Learning standard: identifying local characteristics

The 2006 Olympics are being held in Turin, Italy, and will begin in early February. What do you know about this competition? Here is some history of the event. The ancient Olympic games took place about 3,000 years ago in a part of Greece known as Olympia. The modern games first took place in 1896. Can you name any of the cities where recent Winter Olympics have been held? Go online to find out a bit about Turin, Italy. What factors, besides the need for cold weather, would have to be considered when choosing a locale for this competition? Would the area where you live be good for such an event? List the pros and cons of your area and debate the possibility. Finally, skim the Sports section for any mention of the upcoming games and summarize a story that you find.

SPORTS: IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS

Learning standard: computing with authentic data

Numerals, they say, tell the story in sports, and sometimes there's even meaning in the number on an athlete's jersey. You can also have fun using the statistics found in the Sports pages to learn and practice math skills. Find the professional basketball box scores if they are listed in the newspaper. Throughout a basketball game, statisticians from the team and sometimes from the news media record all of the important details and data. Much of that gets printed in the newspaper as abbreviations to save space. Choose one player whose stats are listed in the box scores, compute that player's total points for the game and show the equation used to find that total.

My Picks for 2006

Now is your chance to predict the future. Based on the information, stories and ads in the newspaper, see whether you can find one example of each person, place or thing that will be hot in 2006.

TV show

Movie star

Car that conserves gas

Newsmaker

News location

Champion athlete

Sport to watch

Sport to play

Clothing

Shoes

Business

Hi-tech toy or gadget

STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEET

Name _____

Your newspaper and/or sponsor's logo here.



in Education

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