

### Leapfrog Program Week 2

**Course Title:** News Flash! Online Journalism

#### Course Description

More and more people are turning to the Internet to find out what is going on in the world. Aspiring journalists will learn and practice key journalism skills for writing interesting and exciting news stories for an online audience.

#### Essential Questions

- How do you tell a story?
- What are the similarities and differences between newspaper articles and online news stories?
- How brief can a news story be and still convey essential information to the reader?
- How can you be sure that what you write is true?

#### Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will have:

- a. Read and examined examples of journalistic writing in a variety of mediums to identify similarities and differences
- b. Compared newspaper articles to online news stories and evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of each format
- c. Discussed and analyzed the features and characteristics of online news stories
- d. Conducted research through both primary and secondary sources
- e. Evaluated the accuracy of a variety of news sources
- f. Written and edited online news articles
- g. Investigated additional opportunities for kid reporters to publish their writing online
- h. Presented their writing in a final project that demonstrates knowledge of effective news stories

#### Instructional Strategies

Instruction in this class will be differentiated in a variety of ways. After the pre-assessment, compacting will be used to select activities that are based on students' prior knowledge. Flexible grouping will allow students to be grouped by choice and ability, while tiered assignments will ensure that students are working to their full potential. Multiple intelligences will dictate one of the assignments that students will complete, and some work will be done as an independent activity.

#### Resources and Materials

- **Books**
  - a. Scieszka, Jon, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, 1996, ISBN 9780140544510
- **Web sites**
  - a. Scholastic News Online, [www.scholastic.com/news/](http://www.scholastic.com/news/)  
Online news resource for students, including lead stories and editorials
  - b. Time for Kids, <http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/kids>

- Online news resource for students, including lead stories and editorials
- c. Wikispaces, <http://leapfrog2011.wikispaces.com/>  
Class wiki for news reporting
- d. 21 Classes, <http://mrsdoell.21classes.com>  
Blog site for classrooms

- **Materials**

Optional- digital camera, laptop

(Note: if a student chooses to bring the above items, it will be at his/her responsibility for keeping it secure.)

### Student Assessment

- **Pre-Assessment**

-KWL- an activity that allows students to demonstrate what they already know and what they expect to learn in the class. In addition, the KWL is revisited so that students can show what they learned.

-Class discussion

- **Documentation of Learning**

Student progress will be determined through class work, including written news articles and blog work. In addition, student participation in class discussions will show what the student has learned.

- **Post-Assessment**

KWL revisited, final news article

### Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	In-class Activities	How will you document learning for assessment?
7-11	Interesting Introductions	KWL Classmate interviews Exploration of article types Scavenger hunt for online journalism sources	Interviews, scavenger hunt
7-12	Breathtaking Blogs	<i>The True Story of the Three Little Pigs</i> - book, article-writing, and blogging	News article/ blog
7-13	Wonderful Wikis	Current events- articles, article-writing, and wikis	Current event article/ wiki
7-14	Fabulous Photojournalism and Marvelous Multiple Intelligences	Examples of photojournalism Documentation of Leapfrog Program in photos Reporting using multiple intelligences (students will use a theory on different learning styles to determine a way to present information.)	Photojournalism work Multiple intelligences completed assignment
7-15	Exciting Expo!	Finish preparations for Parent EXPO! Presenting <i>The Leapfrog Times</i> for the EXPO! Students will give a demonstration of their contributions to the newspaper	Class "online" newspaper- one final product will be compiled from individual student work

### CTD Statement on Third-Party Web Sites

Instructors are required to thoroughly review any third-party web sites they intend to use in their courses for inappropriate content. However, because web content continuously changes, CTD disclaims any responsibility for any of the content contained on third-party web sites used in course materials. If you become aware of anything that may be inappropriate, please notify CTD staff immediately.

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