

## Current Events & Social Studies

The daily newspaper is your text.

When you have Current Events Class, the group participates in choosing articles in the paper to discuss, cut out, and collect.

Obviously, you will be involved in **demystifying the content** so that people are able to understand it as much as possible. Thus, in the first place, you should pick articles that lend themselves to this. In other words, avoid the Business Section and the Stock Market News, etc.

An exercise evolving from this may be to “respond”. Conduct a collaborative **letter to the editor** writing session.

Another exercise, of course, would be to **draw pictures of the story**. (Keep in mind that train wrecks and plane crashes, etc. may be, for some, easy or fun to draw... but they happen to be the stuff of which nightmares are made.)

Some articles may lend themselves to **skits** that you can create and perform.

Decide upon which **articles you may want to save; and store** them according to date (month / week) and according to section (front page, sports, entertainment, comics, etc.). Maybe do some laminating.

Keep this in an **album** or in an otherwise organized, attractive, and practical manner. It might be a good idea to keep the selected news event for the current week displayed on the same designated area of your **bulletin board**; and on a weekly basis, make an activity out of dismantling the display and properly filing it.

Your **Social Studies Class** may consist primarily of revisiting the past month’s news stories, defining related terms, discussing and observing how things fit in historically, etc. (e.g. which stories are follow-ups from previous stories, etc.)

Use the video camera and perform a mock television newscast with the material that you collected. Keep it simple and entertaining. This means you need to script the lines that your actors will read... and do a lot of rehearsing. Please make sure its **fun** and that you are not subjecting the participants to undue performance anxiety. If you and your group can really get it together, you may fill a whole videotape with a very entertaining and informative **Review of the Year in History!**