**Be a Journalist**!

**Objective**

• Students will interview a classmate

• Students will write a journalism-style feature story

**Materials**

• “Basic Journalism” handout (included)

• “Interview Questionnaire” handout (included)

**Procedures**

\*FIND A PARTNER

1. Discuss with your partner the structure of a basic news story using real samples from an article on the Internet or magazine.

2. Pay attention the news article that you have chosen to read/watch. Write down and discuss with your partner news story process from beginning to end. This should include coverage of headlines, story leads, and general tone of a news story.

3. Students interview a partner using the “Interview Questionnaire” handout.

4. When students are finished writing the story, have them take a picture and lay it out in the style of a newspaper article. (You may do this on your computer)

**Terms to Know:**

• 5W1H: Always answer the who, what, why, where, when, and how of the news article.

• Lead: The opening of a story, usually a summary of the most important information. The lead usually answers the 5W1H.

• Headline: A title or attention grabber above the body of an article. The author of the story usually does not write the headline.

• Angle: A particular point of view or way of looking at a subject.

• Fact-checking: Checking that your facts are correct. Amy, Aimee, and Amie are all pronounced the same way and can be easily misspelled. Look up the names of specific people and places and anything else you are presenting as fact to be sure you are stating the truth.

**What your story will look like:**

**Headline:**

• Use humor or cleverness to engage the reader

• Ensure that the headline is a true description of the information in the story

• Don’t tell everything

**Paragraph 1: Lead**

• Catch the reader’s attention

**Paragraph 2: Background**

• Birth date and place, last school attended, places they’ve lived, family, etc.

**Paragraph 3: Personal**

• Likes/dislikes, hobbies, feelings about the world

**Paragraph 4: Future Goals**

• Career interests, predictions, or hopes for the future

**Interview Questions:**

1. Name

2. Birthday and birthplace

3. Last school attended

4. How do you like school so far?

5. Worst habit

6. Favorite weird food combination

7. Favorite band, radio station, or type of music

8. Favorite book

9. Your idea of relaxation

10. Pet peeve (some little thing that really annoys you)

11. Describe your all-time favorite school project or homework assignment.

12. Describe either your most embarrassing moment or the hardest time in your life.

13. Discuss your best asset or the thing you like most about yourself.

14. Complete the statement “I think kids today really need to...”

15. Complete the statement “I think adults today really need to...”

16. Do you see the world in a positive or negative light? Why?

17. Pick three adjectives (words that describe a noun—nice, tall, bubbly, etc.) off the top of your head that best describe you.

18. Name one thing you would really like to do that you have never tried.

19. Do you speak another language fluently? If so, which one?

20. If your answer to the above question was “no,” what language would you like to speak fluently? Why?

21. Where else in the world would you like to live?

22. What kind of career would you like to have?

23. Describe your family.

24. Describe what you do in your spare time.