



Activity: Exploring the Components of a Newspaper

Objective: To familiarize participants with the various components of a newspaper and their respective functions.

Materials Needed:

- Several different digital editions of ***The Spokesman-Review***
- Whiteboard and markers
- Projector (optional)
- Index cards or paper
- Pen/pencil for each participant
- Duration: 45-60 minutes

Introduction (5 minutes):

Begin by explaining the importance of newspapers as sources of information and communication. Highlight that newspapers consist of various components that serve different purposes.

Components Presentation (15 minutes):

Using either a whiteboard or a projector, display a template of a newspaper's front page. Briefly explain each of the following components and their functions:

- Headline:** The main title of the news story, designed to grab the reader's attention.
- Byline:** The name of the journalist or reporter who wrote the article.
- Lead:** The opening sentence or paragraph that summarizes the key points of the story.
- Body:** The main content of the article provides details, facts, and opinions.
- Caption:** A brief description or explanation of a photograph or illustration.
- Dateline:** The location and date of the article's origin.

- g. **Masthead:** Information about the newspaper, including its name, logo, and key staff.
- h. **Sections:** Different categories of news (e.g., Main News, Sports, Northwest, Business).
- i. **Ads:** Advertisements from various businesses and organizations.
- j. **Editorial:** Opinion pieces written by the newspaper's editorial staff.
- k. **Letters to the Editor:** Reader-submitted opinions and responses to published articles.
- l. **Weather Report:** Information about current and upcoming weather conditions.

Newspaper Analysis (20 minutes):

Access the e-Edition of *The Spokesman-Review* in small groups of participants. Ask each group to analyze the components present on their assigned day. Have them identify and list at least three examples of each component. They can use index cards or paper to organize their findings.

Group Presentation (10 minutes):

Invite each group to present their analysis to the larger group. Encourage them to discuss any differences they noticed among the newspapers and to share interesting or unique components they found.

Reflection and Discussion (5 minutes):

Engage the participants in a brief discussion about the significance of each component and how they contribute to the overall structure and purpose of a newspaper.

Wrap-up:

Summarize the key points discussed during the activity. Emphasize that newspapers are complex documents that require a variety of components to effectively communicate information to readers.